



BUDGET SPEECH

2012-13

By

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FINANCE MINISTER

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA

27th February 2012

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

With your kind permission, I rise to present the Budget for the year 2012-13.

2. At the outset, let me express my deep sense of grief and anguish for loss of valuable lives in various incidents especially those related to Extremist and Maoist unrest and terrorist activities in different parts of the country. I also pay homage to the precious lives lost in the devastating earthquake in Sikkim and other natural disasters elsewhere in the country.

3. The global economic crisis which started in 2007-08 is still continuing. This prolonged crisis is a pointer to the instability of globalization regulated by finance capital. The banks and financial institutions which are responsible for this crisis have been given billions of dollars as Bailout Packages. After giving massive bailout package, the United States and the European countries have taken strict measures like cutting down expenditure on social security imposing huge burden on the common people. The countries in the Euro zone are on the verge of a calamity and Greece is at the centre point of this crisis. This crisis has led to increase in the rate of unemployment, growing disparities in income and huge cuts in expenditure on social security and welfare.

4. The people of all the developed capitalist countries have raised their voices in protest against the strict economic measures like cutback on expenditure on social welfare and have launched movements against the government of their countries. The “Occupy Wall Street” agitation in USA and huge rallies organized by the youth and workers in Europe are particularly significant in this regard. Most of the countries in Latin America have rejected the neo liberal economic policy and they are implementing an alternative economic policy.

5. The economic policy of our country is pursuing the goals of globalization, privatization and liberalization. Formation of a strategic alliance with United States has created a dangerous impact on the internal policy of the Government of the country and the lives of its people. Disinvestment of PSUs, allowing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the economy, allowing Multi-National Companies to regulate drug market, opening the door for FDI in retail, allowing foreign private insurance companies, universities and media companies to set up their bases in our country are some of the agendas of the neo liberal economic policy of the Government of India. Govt of India is not taking any steps to check the rise in prices of all essential commodities nor taking any initiative to revise the tax structure of petroleum products. The Govt of India has also failed to introduce universal public distribution system.

6. As a result of the global recession and the neo liberal economic policy followed by the Central Government, the rate of economic growth has slowed down. The rate of growth in employment is also declining. There has been a steep increase in the number of incidents of farmers' suicide all over the country because of the crisis in agriculture. As farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce, agriculture has become a loss making profession. The condition of farm labourers is fast deteriorating and the poor people of rural areas are living in acute hardship. The policy of Govt. of India is to hand over the agriculture system of the country to foreign and national corporate houses. Huge tracts of land are being acquired in their interest and the number of landless people in the villages is rising rapidly.

7. Big businessmen, corporate houses and urban rich have benefited the most from implementation of the new economic policies in the last two decades. Number of billionaires in the country has increased during last two decades while there has been a rapid decline in the wages of workers. On the other hand, the proportion of contract and temporary workers among workers has increased.

8. There have been high profile cases of corruption involving huge amount of money. As a result of deregulation and liberalization, flow of illicit funds to foreign banks has increased. Significant initiative has not yet been taken to recover unlawful

deposits of money in foreign banks. There is weakness in setting up an effective Lokpal to deal with corruption at high level, constituting a Judicial Accountability Commission to improve the Judicial System and taking effective measures to prevent corporate houses from plundering the resources of the country. It is pertinent to mention here that our Government have enacted the Lokayukta Act and made it operational by appointing the Lokayukta in fulfillment of its strong commitment for transparency, accountability and probity in governance.

9. Hon'ble Members are aware of the distress caused to the State finances due to the award of the 13th Finance Commission on account of under assessment of salaries and pension liabilities of the State Government employees. The State Government had already published an information Booklet on review of 13th Finance Commission Award. I have written and met Union Finance Minister seeking assistance to the State to ward off the problem. Hon'ble Chief Minister and my-self met the Hon'ble Prime Minister and sought a Special Package. But the Planning Commission, in response, expressed its inability to assist the State. Under the circumstances, the State Government has been pushed to a critical situation.

10. Despite all these difficulties, the State had consistently achieved the targets under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2005. The fiscal deficit for 2010-11 was

managed at Rs.249.65 Cr which is 1.53% of GSDP – much below the FRBM target of 3%. I am confident that with sound fiscal management, all the FRBM targets would be achieved during the current year and the year after.

11. The Government has been putting sincere efforts for financial inclusion of all the people for which more and more Bank branches are being opened in interior areas. The protection of investors from the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) operating in the State is a major challenge for the Government. The State Government amended “The Tripura Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act 2000” to protect the interests of small investors. Though the NBFCs obtain their licences from RBI/SEBI, etc, the Licencing Authorities do not exercise the needed monitoring and control on their activities. As many of these NBFCs are having their registered offices outside the State, a Central Act vesting suitable powers on the State Government to regulate such companies is required for which the State Government requested the Government of India. The Union Govt. has still not enacted a comprehensive law in this regard.

11.1 It is happy to note that after a long wait, Reserve Bank of India has opened a branch office of RBI at Agartala in May, 2011. The Governor, Reserve Bank of India, during his visit to Tripura had asked the banks to improve the C.D.Ratio to 40% by end of March,2012. However, the C.D. Ratio has been only 32% as

on 31st January, 2012 much below the desired level, which is a matter of concern.

12. With a view to focus on the welfare and empowerment of Women and Girl Child, the State Government introduced the concept of Gender Budget from 2.5.2006 and has been continued since then. This year's Gender Budget has an allocation of Rs.337.45 Cr in respect of 17 nos. of Departments and included in Statement No.14 of the Budget at a Glance.

13. The Government has been consistent in its objective of achieving the self-sufficiency in food grains production and have implemented the Perspective Plan in agriculture. In spite of limitations and constraints, many of which are not within the domain of the State Government, the State has achieved 7.12 lakh tons of foodgrains production in 2010-11 up from 6.48 lakh tons year before and is anticipating to achieve 7.52 lakh tons by 2011-12. Recognising the success of the State in food grains production, the Government of India awarded Krishi Karman Award carrying a prize of Rs.2.00 Cr for being the best food grain production State in Category-III States of the country through the hands of the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 16th July,2011. The State has drawn up a well thought out policy of increasing the area and productivity of food grain crops.

13.1 The State has drawn up a Plan for bringing 25000 hectares of forest land over which rights were vested with the Tribal Forest Dwellers under agriculture crops over a three year period starting from 2011-12.

13.2 For better Post Harvest Management, Cold Storages are under various stages of execution at Dharmanagar, Udaipur, Ambassa, Satchand, Amarpur, Khowai and proposed to be taken up at Belonia during the next year. Recognising the importance of increasing institutional credit to the agriculture sector, our Government has been taking a pro-active role for getting the Kisan Credit Cards issued by Banks to the farmers. Accordingly, a target for issue of 130000 KCCs is taken up for the current year as against 50294 issued during 2010-11. The State Government has been urging the Government of India and Food Corporation of India to take up procurement of Paddy at a remunerative Minimum Support Price to avoid distress sale of paddy by the farmers.

13.3 The first batch of students from College of Agriculture, Lembucherra, have passed out and the College was shifted to a sprawling new premises during the year.

14. The diverse agro-climatic conditions and fertile soils offer immense potential for growing number of tropical and sub-tropical fruits and vegetables. Recognizing this potential, the State Government had taken up a 10-year Perspective Plan in

horticulture from 2002-2012. During this period, the production of horticultural crops have increased from 6.62 lakh tons to 11.60 lakh tons by 2010-11. The State is self-sufficient with regard to requirement of seedlings except some new fruit crops or exotic varieties. The State would continue to promote various cash crops including spices. During the coming year, the Department would augment its activities in 30 more Government Orchards for production of 18 lakh disease free plantation materials of fruits and plantation crops. It is expected to bring about 9000 hectares under horticulture crops in the forest area vested with tribal forest dwellers during this year. The Department is targeting to take up horticultural crops in 15000 hectares of above forest area besides taking up cultivation of vegetables in 575 hectares for producing 8000 tons of additional vegetables by the tribal forest dwellers. The Department is also going to promote micro irrigation in upland hill areas for fruit gardens during the coming year. It is indeed a matter of pride that in a short time the floriculture sector has come up enabling flower growers of Tripura to send exotic flowers outside the State and thus emerging as a source of avenue for self-employment in rural areas.

15. Animal Resources Development Department (ARDD) has been consistently endeavouring to supply milk, meat and eggs and inching close to the targets. During 2010-11, total annual production of milk, meat & eggs was 1.05 Lakh MT, 23,436 MT & 15.70 Cr respectively. Substantial progress has been achieved

in meat production. The per capita availability of Meat, Milk and Eggs have been 6.38 Kg per year, 78.53 gm/day, and 43 nos/year respectively. Considering the present trend of growth rate, the expected level of achievement during 2011-12 in milk, meat and egg is likely to be 1.10 lakh M.T., 25000 M.T. and 16.50 Cr respectively, which approximately works out to a per capita availability of 81 gram of milk per day, 7 Kg meat per year and 45 nos. of egg. Through series of various continuous interventions, it is targeted to produce 1.16 lakh M.T. Milk, 34000 M.T. Meat and 21.00 Cr of Eggs during 2012-13, which translates to per capita availability of approximately 90 gram per day, 8.9 Kg per year and 55 nos. per year in the milk, meat and egg sectors by the 2012-13.

15.1 The Veterinary College has been running since 2009-10 at R.K.Nagar. The construction of Ist phase of the College building with an outlay of Rs.16.30 Cr is in progress.

16. Hon'ble Members are aware that there has been a quantum jump in fish production enabling to reach nutritional self-sufficiency in fish by 2010-11. The total fish production crossed the target of 45098 tons by achieving 49231 tons during 2010-11. Apart from increase in productivity of fish by 7%, the per capita availability has increased to 14.12 Kg during 2010-11 up from 12.31 Kg during 2009-10. It is expected that total fish production would go up to 53000 tons with per capita availability of 15 Kg by the end of fiscal 2011-12. It is proposed to continue the efforts for increasing the fish

production further to ensure per capita availability of fish of 16 Kg by the end of 2012-13 and ultimately to reach 19 Kg by the end of 12th Plan.

17. Forests play a pivotal role in ensuring ecological stability and socio-economic security for the people. During the current year, plantations have been raised in 25106 Hectare in degraded forest lands with Bamboo and other tree species including medicinal plants. The Bamboo plantations are being well received in the State. The Bamboo plantations of 14087 hectares were achieved during the current year. During the year 413 new JFMCs have been formed under the externally aided project-JICA. Two externally aided projects - JICA and IGDC would be implemented with increased activities during the coming year. The Government has been giving special emphasis to improve the livelihoods of the forest dwellers by harnessing the potential of Non-Timber Forest Produce. The Department has created 1035.91 hectares of water area from 2007-08 to 2010-11 of which 408.47 hectares water area was created during 2010-11. It is expected to create 672.30 hectares water area during 2011-12. These water bodies are being gainfully utilized by SHGs of the Joint Forest Management Committees.

18. The State has a well established Public Distribution System working flawlessly. The replacement of old ration cards taken up last year has been completed by this time. The project in Nagar Panchayats and two Wards of Agartala Municipal

Council area and Kadamtala Block to distribute ration commodities from Fair Price Shops from first day of every month was taken up which could be scaled up further depending upon the success of the programme. The construction of 14 godowns with storage capacity of 14000 tons is likely to be completed by next financial year.

18.1 During 2010-11, 42662 nos. of LPG connections were given and 15882 LPG connections have already been provided during the year,2011. The State Government has reconstituted Fair Price Shop Level Vigilance Committees and constituted Block level Vigilance Committees for keeping greater vigil and monitoring of the public distribution system.

19. Revival and restructuring of the LAMPS and PACS and other Cooperative Credit Institutions through infusion of financial assistance has been taken up. The Credit Societies have now become debt free and became eligible to access further loans.

19.1 In order to enable Tripura State Cooperative Bank to obtain Banking licence from the Reserve Bank of India, the State Government has made capital infusion of Rs.237 lakh to the TSCB during the current year.

20. The School Education Department has been implementing two Flagship Programmes namely Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal Scheme. The Joint Review Mission of SSA have appreciated the performance of the State in

implementation of SSA. After coming into effect of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 from 1st April, 2010, the State Government has finalized the State Rules and notified the same effective from 15.8.2011. The Department of School Education has given special emphasis for enrolment of all children in the age group of 6-14 years and enrolled almost all children. Cooked hot meals are being served to about 5,91,000 students reading in Class I-VIII in all Government and Government aided schools and Madrassas. During 2011, more than 5 lakh ST/SC and UR (BPL category) students reading in the elementary level were given free school uniforms and this would be continued.

20.1 The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 provides for no-detention of any child in any class till completion of elementary level (Class-VIII). The State Government has reservation about this provision because it is apprehended that this may lead to deterioration in quality of education at the elementary level. The Act also provides for large scale infrastructure development, including provision of required teachers and adequate training institutions. Due to serious financial constraints being faced by the State Government, it is extremely difficult to provide required matching contribution from the State Government for infrastructure development, thereby affecting the timely implementation of the provisions of the Act. Our request to Government of India for 100% assistance for implementation of this Act has so far not been responded by the Government of India.

20.2 The State Government has been implementing the policy of having English Medium Schools in all Sub-divisional Headquarters. Considering the increasing demand for English Medium Schools, particularly in rural areas, the Government proposes to set up English Medium Schools at Block level in phases. The School Education Department is also implementing “Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan”. During this year, 43 Nos. of S.B. Schools have been upgraded to High Schools. It may be mentioned that up-gradation of infrastructure of large number of existing High and Higher Secondary Schools have been taken up and works are going on in 49 Nos. of Schools and 13 Nos. of Madrassas.

21. The literacy rate of the State is 87.75 % as per Census 2011 and Tripura ranked 4th among all the States in the country. Tripura got award from the President of India for achieving the highest reduction in the gap between male and female literacy during 2001-2011.

22. With an aim to provide access to higher education in interior areas, a new General Degree College was started at Gandachhera during 2010-11 and an amount of Rs.400.00 lakhs have been provided for construction of College buildings. Work of construction of newly set up Polytechnic Institute at Ambassa at a cost of Rs.32.30 Cr has already been taken up. The Government proposes to start six new Degree Colleges at Mohanpur, Bishalgarh, Kanchanpur, Santirbazar, Teliamura and Longtharai

Valley during the next session. Construction works of Polytechnic Institutes at Udaipur and Dharmanagar are in progress.

23. Since 2010-11, the Youth Affairs and Sports Department had taken up major projects for development of infrastructure for promotion of Games & Sports in the State. Second Sports School in the RCPE, Panisagar is under construction and is expected to be completed by March, 2012. During 2012-13, four numbers of 300 bedded (Boys & Girls) hostels will be constructed at Agartala, Udaipur, Kailashahar and Ambassa. In addition, Sports Gallery at Sabroom; upgradation of State Adventure Institute at Melaghar; construction of State Training Centre for Scouts and Guides at A.D.Nagar, Agartala, Second phase of Improvement of Swami Vivekananda Stadium (Astable Ground), Agartala and Sports building for Judo, Weightlifting, Karate, Table Tennis at A.D.Nagar Police ground will also be taken up.

23.1 The Sports persons from the State have been making the State proud by winning Gold Medals in both Commonwealth and Asian Games like Shri Somedev Devbarman in Lawn Tennis, Miss Deepa Karmakar, Gymnast had participated in Gymnastics in the International arena while Miss Piyali Majumder achieved two Golds in the Asia Yoga Championship at Hongkong. Smti. Rakhi Rani Das Purkasyastha received National Youth Award and 4 (four) nos. Scouts and Guides from the State received Award from Her Excellency, the President of India for their best activities in Scouts and Guides.

24. Provision of Health Care is an important priority of the Government. Agartala Govt. Medical College has started P.G. Courses in ten disciplines. To focus on Medical Education, a Directorate of Medical Education was set up during the year. Construction works are nearing completion in District Hospitals at Udaipur and Kailashahar and are likely to be commissioned very soon. Up-gradation of IGM Hospital is in good progress and is likely to be completed by December, 2012. Dharmanagar and Khowai Sub Divisional Hospitals with 100 beds each are likely to be commissioned by 31st March, 2012. Construction works of Teliamura and Santirbazar Sub Divisional Hospitals are in good progress, while the process has started for construction of Amarpur and Kanchanpur Sub Divisional Hospitals. Regional College of Nursing will be established at Hapania with the financial support of Ministry of DONER. An Ayurvedic College, Homoeopathic College and a Dental College are proposed to be set up under PPP model.

24.1 In the last year (2011-12) Budget Speech, I have outlined an action plan for construction of 207 number of new Health Sub-Centers against which construction of 326 numbers Health Sub-Centers have been taken up. One PHC at Microsapara has been commissioned and 32 more Primary Health Centres at new locations are under various stages of construction. It is proposed to construct 76 Health Sub-Centres, 3 Primary Health Centres and 2 Community Health Centres during the year.

25. To reduce the shortfall and have universal access of power, the State Government has taken number of steps for augmenting power generation capacity and extending distribution network in the last few years. One unit of 21 MW Power Plant at Rokhia is likely to be completed by 2012. The OTPC Power Plant of 726 MW at Palatana is expected to start generation of electricity by May, 2012 which will provide 196 MW of power to the State. With the completion of 104 MW Monarchak Project by April, 2013, Tripura would be a power surplus State. The power evacuation service Station at Surjyamoninagar is in final stages of execution and is likely to be completed by April, 2012. Out of 858 villages as per 2001 census, the State has electrified 824 villages. During 2011-12 under State Plan and other schemes, 280 Km of LT line, 120 Km of HT line and 35605 BPL service connections are expected to be provided. Four RGGVY Projects are under implementation in the State. While projects of erstwhile North District and Dhalai District implemented by Tripura State Electricity Corporation is satisfactory, the projects under implementation by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. in erstwhile West and South Tripura Districts have been found to be slow.

26. Science and Technology Department will be providing Solar lanterns to 18046 families during 2011-12 living in Nagar Panchayat and Agartala Municipal Council. The Department has sent two Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for establishment of Science City (Vigyan Gram) with projected cost of Rs.32.00 Cr and the other project for developing Agartala as a Solar City.

27. Good connectivity is a pre-requisite for development and our Government had always been attaching utmost importance for all weather connectivity. One of the vital projects for development of road network in the State is four laning of NH-44. Though Hon'ble Prime Minister announced Four Laning of NH-44 way back in 2005, the Government of India has now decided to develop it only as a Two Lane Road. The National Highway 44A from Aizawl to Manu was announced in 1999, but during last 13 years, only about 20 Kms of this road has been developed despite repeated persuasion of our Government. The alternative National Highway from Kukital to Sabroom has not been declared so far. It is pertinent to mention that Tripura has the lowest length of National Highways among all North Eastern States except Sikkim.

27.1 During 2012-13, 200 KM of metalling and carpeting of roads is proposed to be taken up. During the current year, a Project under Phase-VIII under PMGSY for 69 roads and 40 RCC Bridges at the cost of Rs. 356.56 Crores has been sanctioned. Out of the total eligible habitations of 773 Nos. to be connected under 1000+ and 500+ population, 610 Nos. of habitations have been so far connected under PMGSY and rest would be covered. About 80% of village/Panchayat Headquarters are connected by pucca roads and the remaining will also be taken up. It is proposed to cover all Sub-divisional Headquarters with a 2-lane road connecting them to a National Highway or District Headquarters and also connect the Block Headquarters by intermediate lane.

27.2 Work on the 2-Lane road connecting Kumarghat to Kailashahar at a cost of Rs. 90.7 Crores is in progress. Besides, 2-laning of Udaipur-Amarpur and Bishramgunj-Melaghar road is nearing completion. The implementation of project sanctioned by NEC for improvement of Bishalgarh-Boxonagar-Sonamura-Belonia road (83.00 KM) is in full swing and is targeted to be completed by next year. Administrative approval of Rs. 69.16 Crores for 2-laning road from Udaipur to Melaghar via Kakraban has been obtained from Ministry of DoNER under ADB funding for which preliminary activities have already been started.

27.3 The Public Works Department has taken up a project "On-LINE PWD" with an objective to connect all Circles and Divisions to improve the Work Management System. At present, test facilities for quality of materials and samples in the State are very minimum and, therefore, the existing laboratory of the Department is being developed with ISO Certification by a joint venture with CSIR and North East Institute of Science & Technology.

28. Provision of potable drinking water had been an avowed objective of the Left Front Government. Out of 8132 rural habitations, 3779 habitations are fully covered and 2189 habitations are partially covered. 23 nos. of Water Testing Laboratories have been set up for water quality monitoring. During 2011-12, the Department has achieved the targets significantly, which includes sinking of 78 Deep Tube-wells; commissioning of 59 Deep Tube-

wells; 184 Small Bore Deep Tube-wells; 51 IRPs; and laying of 374 Km of pipeline. Work on 27 nos. Water Treatment Plants at different places is in progress and will be completed by 2012-13. During next financial year, it is proposed to install 140 Deep Tubewells, 600 Small Bore Deep Tubewells, 190 Iron Removal Plants for DTWs, 250 IRPs for SBDTWs and 6 nos. of Water Treatment Plants.

28.1 During 2011-12 upto December, 20972 no. of households were covered under IHHL and 585 Schools and 432 Anganwadi Centres have been provided with toilets. During 2012-13, all the remaining households, schools and Anganwadi Centres are proposed to be covered with sanitation facilities. It is also targeted to provide drinking water facilities in all schools and Anganwadi Centres.

29. The State has taken up an action plan for bringing 50% of the cultivable land under irrigation. An area of 1,08,646 hectare was brought under irrigation till March, 2011 which is about 89% of irrigable land. In this year, till date 15 nos. LI, 2 nos. DTW, 1 no. HPLI and 4 nos. Diversion schemes have been commissioned. In addition, 10 no. of LI Schemes and 8 nos. of DTW schemes are ready for commissioning. It is expected to bring 4000 Ha of land additionally under irrigation by end of current year. During 2012-13, Department proposes to take up 10 nos. LI, 25 nos. DTW and 5 nos. minor irrigation storage schemes.

30. Construction works in Agartala – Udaipur sector of new railway line from Agartala to Sabroom have achieved significant progress. All the land required for construction of Railway line from Agartala – Udaipur sector except a small stretch of land in Bishalgarh area was handed over. This is targeted to be completed during 2012 according to Railway sources. The Work in Udaipur-Sabroom sector has also started. Required land is being acquired and handed over to the Railways. The Project is targeted to be completed by March, 2013.

30.1 The work of gauge conversion of Railway line from Lumding to Agartala was taken up way back 1996-97. However, the work in Lumding-Badarpur section was badly delayed. The work is now reported to be in full swing and the State Government is pursuing to complete it by 2013.

30.2 The State Government is attaching top priority to provision of improved facilities for passengers and motor workers by construction of new Motor Stands and up-gradation of existing Motor stands. Construction of new Motor Stands at Panisagar and Ranirbazar have been completed and opened for use by general public. Old Dharmanagar Motor Stand has been upgraded and while construction of new Inter-State Bus Terminus at Dharmanagar has been taken up. Construction of new Motor stands in Sonamura, Khumluwng and Kanchanpur are also in progress. Construction works in Inter State Truck Terminus (ISTT) at Madhabbari are in full swing and are expected to be completed by December,2012.

30.3 City bus services are being operated with 38 buses. 15 more Diesel operated buses will be inducted shortly. Two new CNG refilling stations are coming up at Bridhya Nagar near Khayerpur and Krishnanagar TRTC Complex.

30.4 SMS based services for providing information on road tax, National Permit ownership etc, to public has been launched while facility for online payment of road tax and other fees by stakeholders is being introduced.

31. To promote the Tribal Culture, the Tripura State Academy of Tribal Culture has been set up affiliated to the Tripura University. During the last three years, 362 students have enrolled in the Academy of which 97 students have completed the course.

31.1 Socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes has been a cornerstone of the policy of the Government. Seven S.T. Hostels were completed at Agartala, Bishalgarh (Srinagar-Gabordi), Gandacherra, Ganganagar and Kanchanpur. In addition, 3 Tribal Rest Houses have been completed at Damcherra, Ganganagar and Chailengta. Under the Economic Benefit Scheme for recipients of Forest Rights, 53789 No. of Forest Dwellers have been provided assistance with a financial involvement of Rs.49.39 crores by dovetailing fund from MGNREGA and other line Departments. Boarding House Stipends, Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post Matric Scholarship were distributed to 1,30,663 ST students involving an

amount of Rs.2970.15 lakhs. Free Text Books were provided to 15,424 ST students. Government sponsored 104 ST Girl students for GNM, B.Pharm and P.C.B.Sc., Nursing Courses outside the state. Financial assistance was provided to 1,332 numbers of ST beneficiaries for Rubber, Horti and Tea Plantation involving an amount of Rs.675.56 lakhs under Tribal Welfare Department Schemes. The allocation for TTAADC has also increased during the year.

32. During 2011-12, Stipends/ Scholarship are estimated to be given to 1,37,135 No. of SC & OBC students. Total 1.40 lakh SC/OBC students will be covered under Stipend/Scholarship schemes during 2012-13. Besides, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Memorial Award will be given to 3000 SC and 700 OBC meritorious students. Six hundred and fifty S.C. students will be covered under the scheme for special coaching in Core Subjects. Moreover, 120 SC/OBC students will be sponsored for GNM course.

33. I urge the Government of India to take expeditious action with suitable amendment of the Constitution so that reservation in services could be provided to OBCs.

34. Welfare of Religious Minorities had always been a priority to the Left Front Government. Stipends and Scholarships were provided to 26149 minority students. In addition, 50 students were sponsored for GNM and 5 students for D.Pharm Courses

outside the State. Special incentive awards were given to 692 Girls and 35 Girls were assisted for special coaching in core subjects. The State Government has taken up a Plan for infrastructure Development in 72 Minority dominated villages having minority population of 30% or more by taking up works like construction of road; creation of drinking water facility; provision of irrigation sources; provision of dwelling houses; extension of electrical line; construction of Madrassa; Graveyard, Chatrabash, Community Hall, Health Centre, ARD Sub Centre and family benefit oriented schemes. The above schemes would be continued during the coming years and infrastructure works would be taken up. It is proposed to introduce Begum Rokeya Merit Award for topper among minority girls in Madhyamik and Higher Secondary (+2) with a Gold Medal and Rs.5000/- Cash Award. It is also proposed to construct two nos. of Girls' Hostel for Minority School and College students at Udaipur. For development of minority education institutions, the State Government has provided Rs.15.00 lakh each to 15 Junior and Senior Madrassas for their infrastructure development and the work would be completed very soon. For construction of new building for Nazrul Chatrabas, Rs.2.8 Cr has been provided. In order to protect the interests of the religious minorities, I urge the Government of India to suitably amend the Constitution of India to provide for reservation in educational institutions and services for religious minorities and also implement the recommendation of Ranganath Mishra Commission and Sachar Committee.

35. The State Government attaches great emphasis on the welfare of women, children and destitute widows, old aged and physically challenged people.

ICDS is an important Flagship programme. Under this programme, there are 9906 Anganwadi Centres (AWC) of which 7858 AWCs have pucca buildings while construction is in progress in 1749 AWCs. During 2011-12, construction of AWCs was sanctioned for 335 Centres of which 64 are already completed and the rest are in progress. During the year, 381701 children and 100968 mothers are covered under the ICDS. It is targeted to cover 4,44,055 children and 1,14,993 mothers during 2012-13.

35.1 The State Government proposes to increase the number of persons under the National Old Age Pension Scheme to 152550 persons from 136592 persons. Similarly, total of 42809 widow and deserted women will be covered under the Widow and deserted pension scheme by 2012-13. The Government would be endeavouring to bring increased number of people under different pension schemes. Construction of one hostel for Institute of Visually Handicapped Girls and Anganwadi workers at Narshingarh is taken up during the current year.

35.2 I am happy to inform you that the scheme of incentive to girl children is being successfully implemented. The scheme has generated a great deal of awareness and interest. I

would like to inform this House that the Government would continue to cover eligible girls under the scheme during the current year for which I have made provision by increased allocation in the budget. Hon'ble Members are aware that pension for the 100% blind, at present, is available only to the BPL category at the rate of Rs.1000/- per month. This august House would agree with me that physical disability particularly blindness makes no distinction between BPL and APL. Hence, I propose to cover 100% blinds belonging to the Above Poverty Line (APL) category also under the above pension scheme. I also propose to introduce next year the Disability Pension Scheme for 80% and above Disability other than 100% Blind belonging to APL families at Rs.400/- per month. Details would be worked out in due course.

35.3 Hon'ble Members of the House are aware of the hardships of the girls in general and unmarried girls in particular in their advanced years of age. It is with a view to bring positive bias that the Left Front Government has launched scheme of Incentive to Girls Child and has been successfully implementing. This year, I would like to propose to this august House of my intention to start a pension scheme for Unmarried Women of the age of 45 years and above belonging to BPL families to provide Pension at the rate of Rs.400/- per month. I am sure this would offer some support to the unmarried women of the age of 45 years and above. I have increased allocations for Social welfare schemes in the Budget.

36. Since the launch of MGNREGA in 2005, the State has been leader in providing wage employment to the rural households under the scheme. This has definitely helped in containing rural distress and providing enough employment opportunities to the weaker sections specially women and tribal people. During 2010-11, State provided average 67 person days of employment per household. However, it has never been that the Central Government provided sufficient funds in time so that the targeted 100 person days of employment could be provided to each household. The Union Government should keep provision for providing sufficient funds in advance for generating wage employment based on actual demand without keeping a cap of 100 person days. I also urge the Government of India to amend MGNREGA to provide 200 days of wage employment and give flexibility to the State to decide the permissible activities. The wage payable under this programme should also be linked to Consumer Price Index. For the State of Tripura, the daily wage rate should be fixed to at least Rs.150/- at present. Our State has provided average 62 days of work per household till 10.02.2012 during this year against the national average of 33 days which is highest in the Country. The State has been endeavouring not only to provide wage employment but creation of durable assets such as land development for gainful use through horticulture, fisheries, rural connectivity, fodder cultivation, water harvesting structures, etc.

36.1 Tripura is one of the States which have covered all the Job Card holders with Bank Account. I also hope Government of India to provide for regularization and extension of other benefits to the staff recruited for implementation of MGNREGA by suitable amendment of the Act.

36.2 During the current year, 4796 nos. of houses have been constructed under Indira Awas Yojana. Till date 32,646 nos. of SHGs have been formed of which 1553 nos. of new SHGs were formed in current year. From next year SGSY will be replaced by National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in erstwhile Dhalai & South Tripura Districts. In case of erstwhile West Tripura & North Tripura Districts, the SGSY will be replaced by North Eastern Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP).

36.3 During 2011-12, Gram/Village Sabha meetings were held on quarterly basis with a view to ensuring accountability and transparency. For the purpose of capacity building, 8296 PRI representatives and functionaries have been trained of which 1730 were trained during 2011-12. Construction of two new Panchayat Raj Training Institutes at Kumarghat and Udaipur is on its way, for development of training infrastructure. The work of digitization of ROR for preparation of Database is going on.

37. Improvement of 8.39 Km Roads and Storm Water drains of Belonia, Kailasahar, Kamalpur and 1.3 Km Covered drain

at Ranirbazar under UIDSSMT (JNNURM) scheme has been completed. The Water Supply Project under JNNURM in the North Zone of Agartala Municipal Council area is under implementation and work of 90 Km pipeline for water distribution and 9 nos. Deep Tubewells have been completed. The sewerage scheme in the North Zone of Agartala Municipal Council area under JNNURM is also under implementation. The construction of 22 nos. Deep Tube-Wells under ADB Project has been started in the South and Central Zones of the Agartala Municipal Council area.

37.1 Construction of Town Halls at Amarpur, Sabroom, Dharmanagar, Kamalpur, Udaipur and Ambassa; Super Market at Amarpur; Motor stand at Kamalpur; Shopping Complex opposite to Maharani Tulshibati School, and development of Battala Cremation Ground with modern facilities are in progress.

37.2 Construction of 384 nos. of dwelling units for urban poor at Joynagar and Radhanagar in Agartala and Town Hall at Sonamura will be started during next year. Construction of Overhead Reservoirs, Ground Water Treatment Plants, laying of water supply pipe line in Agartala Municipal Council area under ADB project will also be started during 2012-13.

37.3 I would like to draw attention of this august House to the plight of the urban poor in search of wage employment. The Left Front Government has been urging the Government of India

for starting a scheme for the urban poor to offer wage employment on the pattern of MGNREGA. But the Government of India had not yet taken any positive step in this direction. However, the State Government has already been implementing the TUEP for the last three years to provide wage employment to the needy in the urban areas of the State. I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Members that despite serious financial crunch that the State Government has been facing due to 13th Finance Commission Award, the State Government is committed to continue the TUEP in the coming year and has increased the allocation for this programme.

38. Tripura Bamboo Mission is working for integrated development of Bamboo sector in Tripura and has made very significant impact in 'agarbatti' sticks making. The production of Tripura Tea has reached 95.5 lakh Kgs of made tea with average price realized at Rs.75.19 per kg. During 2010-11, total 1041 beneficiaries have been sanctioned assistance under Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and 1660 beneficiaries have received financial assistance under Swavalamban scheme. Already eight Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are functional in the State. In addition, two more Industrial Training Institutes are being set up under "Special Economic Development Package" for capacity building and Tribal Development at Khumulwng and Manubankul. Besides, two more - one each at Khowai and Sonamura are also being set up. All the existing 8 ITIs

are being upgraded into Centres of Excellence (CoE) in different disciplines.

38.1 A Mega Food Park was approved to be set up through a private developer at a project cost of Rs.87.00 Cr of which Rs.50.00 Cr is a grant from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. An Integrated Textiles Park in Tripura through private developer has also been approved by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India for providing world class infrastructure for textiles industries.

38.2 There are seven notified Land Customs Stations in the State, out of which six are operational. The State Government has been pursuing to operationalise Land Customs Stations at Sabroom and Dhalaighat.

38.3 The trade with Bangladesh has been increasing remarkably from Rs.163.30 Cr during 2009-10 to Rs.257.60 Cr during 2010-11. During the year 2011-12 upto December, the trade had increased to Rs.231.64 Cr and is expected to touch about Rs.300.00 Cr. It is hoped that the trade with Bangladesh would further increase substantially after the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh to Agartala during which a high level Trade and Business Interaction was organised in which representatives of Trade and Industry of India and Bangladesh participated. After the visit of H.E. the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Bangladesh conveyed

their formal consent for construction of Bridge over River Feni which would facilitate linking Tripura with Chittagong.

39. Under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), 145 Common Service Centers (CSCs) are established across the State which are catering to various G2C and B2C services to citizens. Currently 60 Points of Presence (PoPS) are located across the State under SWAN. Tripura is the 6th State in the Country to establish SWAN connectivity and first State in the country to go for Third Party Audit for SWAN. Apart from many hurdles to maintain the network, average up-time for SWAN is around 95%. Tripura has already set up a State Data Center (SDC) at Agartala which acts as a repository of various departmental and Government of India applications and offers 24X7 services.

40. The celebrations of 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore had been successfully completed throughout the State. The State had taken initiative to set up new Rabindra Bhawan which will have modern facilities and technical equipment and is expected to be completed during 2012-13. The construction of Nazrul Kala Kshetra Phase-II is complete and is expected to be commissioned by 2012-13. The 150th Birth Anniversary Year of Swami Vivekananda is being observed in the State since 12th January,2012 for which the School Education Department would organize year long programmes.

41. Presently, the Tripura Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) is running 32 Tourist Lodges and 10 Cafeterias. Further, 1 Tourist Lodge at Khumlnwng is ready for inauguration. Tourist Information Centres at Akhaura Check Post and International Bus Terminus have also been set up. The State Institute of Hotel Management set up at Anandanagar, Agartala would go a long way in providing opportunities to local youth in acquiring professional competence in Tourism Sector. During 2011-12, 6 nos. of Tourism Projects like Skill Development and Rural Tourism have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.1612.31 lakh,

42. With a view to deliver better services to the people, the Government of Tripura has created 4 new Revenue Districts viz. Sepahijala, Khowai, Gomati and Unakoti and 6 new Sub Divisions viz. Jampuijala, Jirania, Mohanpur, Karbook, Panisagar and Kumarghat with effect from 21st Jan 2012. Online Land Records Management System has been introduced with internet connectivity in 29 Revenue Circles. Process of Cadastral Survey (CS), Map Digitization is in progress and the same will be completed by the middle of 2012. The State Government has taken allotment of homestead land to homeless and landless on priority. As part of gender empowerment, the State Government has amended the TLR & LR (Allotment of Land) Rules, 1980 under which henceforth, all allotment orders will be issued in the joint names of husband and wife. Under the RFR Act, rights over forest land were vested with 1,19,382 tribal forest dwellers over an area of 1,75,963 hectares.

43. The Government is strengthening the Police with arms, equipments and other logistic support for which steps are being taken under the scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces. Infrastructure for the Tripura State Rifles Battalions is being augmented with the construction of 5 nos. TSR Bn Headquarters at Jampuijala (7th Bn), Lalcherra (8th Bn), Hichacherra (9th Bn), Jirania (10th Bn) and Pathaliaghat (11th Bn) for which works are in progress. The work for construction of KTD Singh Police Academy at Narsinghar with an outlay of Rs.10.00 Cr has already commenced under the 13th Finance Commission Award. The State Government has also set up a Counter Insurgency and Anti-Terrorist School at Kachucherra under Dhalai district. Crime, Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) for tracking criminals and incidents of crime is under implementation at Police Station level throughout the State. I am sure this House would join me in congratulating the Tripura Police on receiving President's Colours which is indeed a matter of pride to the State.

44. Construction work of permanent buildings of Fire Service Headquarters Complex is expected to be completed during next year. Construction works of new buildings at Kalyanpur, Bishalgarh and Kumarghat are in progress.

45. Construction of modern Central Prison at Bishalgarh is in final stage of completion. Fund of Rs.250 lakh has already been placed under the Special Plan Assistance for

construction of Sonamura Sub Jail. The Government has decided to shift the Kailashahar District Jail to the outskirts of the town for which an area of 10 acres of land has been identified and handed over to the Home (Jail) Department. It is expected that Bishalgarh Central Prison with 1000 capacity will start functioning during the next year. Two new sub jails at Gandacherra and Longtharai Valley with capacity of 130 inmates each are expected to function shortly.

46. The Agartala Bench of the Gauhati High Court was shifted to the New Capital Complex. Our Government has taken up the matter of establishing a separate High Court in Agartala. It is hoped that permanent High Court would be set up at Agartala in the near future. The State Government has formulated the State Litigation Policy to improve the justice delivery system in the State by transforming the State into an efficient and responsible litigant. A Law Training Institute was also set up to impart training to the Prosecutors, Law Officers and other State Government officials connected with administration of justice.

47. Keeping in mind the interests of the labourers, the minimum wages of labour is revised from time to time. By 2011-12, 2,61,078 families have been provided with smart cards under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and it is proposed to cover another 84,483 families during the next financial year. During previous year, 40,219 beneficiaries were provided health care under RSBY involving medical claims of Rs. 862 lakh. During the current year, 22,463 beneficiaries availed health care benefits involving

claims of Rs. 437 lakh upto December, 2011. Under the Asanghatita Shramik Sahayika Prakalpa (ASSP), 54454 nos. Workers were enrolled. The Government is also considering strengthening the field set up of Labour Department to effectively implement various labour welfare programmes.

47.1 The Employees State Insurance Dispensary was set up in 2009 to provide medical care to the organised workers employed in factories and other coverable establishments. In total 33,972 patients received treatment upto December, 2011.

48. The Government has framed Rules to set up a Directorate of Local Fund Audit Directorate as per recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission and the Local Fund Audit would be taking up audit of all the rural and urban bodies. Finance Department is developing a comprehensive software called Human Resources Management Software (HRMS) for computerisation of service records of employees under the State Government. Computerisation of Treasuries has also been taken up for online monitoring of release and expenditure of funds.

49. I would like to address issues for which many of the employees in the State would be looking forward to:

- (i) I propose to increase the age of retirement on superannuation from the present 58 years to 60 years with effect from the next financial year.

(ii) I also propose to announce in principle the sanction of Paternity Leave to the State Government employees for a period of one week at the time of delivery of the child limited to first two children.

(iii) The existing policy of regularization of DRW/Contingent/Fixed Pay workers is proposed to be continued as before.

(iv) Keeping in mind the hardships faced by Pensioners for stay during their visit to Agartala, the Government has provided Rs.5.0 Cr for construction of “Pensioners’ Abash” at Kunjaban for which the work has already started.

50. The Government of India had been pressing the State Government to introduce the New Pension Scheme which has already been implemented by the Central Government for its employees from 1.4.2004 under which there will be no defined pension to employees but only a defined contribution is given by the employer every month. Our Government has been consistently opposed the policy as it would hit Social Security Net available to the employees and hence it has not introduced the New Pension Scheme. The Left Front Government is committed to continue the above system as is in existence at present.

51. Finding Government employment has become very difficult particularly in view of freeze on employment being advocated by the Central Government. However, the Left Front Government has been opposing any freeze on employment advocated by the 13th Finance Commission and the Government of India. I propose to raise the maximum age limit for entry into government service from existing 37 years to 40 years. The relaxation of 5 years as is available at present to the SC/ST will however continue on the increased age limit.

52. The Taxes and Excise Organization is the main department for collection of State's Own Tax Revenue (OTR). With the aim of improving efficiency, ensure transparency and making it Dealers' friendly, the State is implementing 'Mission Mode Project for Computerisation of Tax Administration (MMPCT)' at a project cost of Rs. 730.41 lakhs. The project will be introducing various electronic services like E-registration of dealers, E-filing of Returns, E-payment of taxes, E-refund, issuing E-forms to the dealers, etc. State Government has taken up modernization of Churaibari Checkpost with a view to check the tax evasion and to reduce waiting time of transporters and accordingly Churaibari Checkpost has been made functional at cost of Rs.45.22 Cr.

53. Mr. Speaker Sir, I shall now present proposals and position of State's Tax & Non-tax revenue. No new tax has been proposed in this budget even though the state is passing through the difficult financial conditions. The State's OTR plays major role in

making available sufficient resources for development activities. In my last Budget speech, I had fixed a target of Rs. 783.45 Cr for current year which meant a robust growth rate of 25% over the revised estimates of 2010-11. In the last three quarters the taxes have grown at a rate of 25.16% which is quite good at a time when the growth rate of Indian Economy has come down from 8.5% to 7%. I am confident that during 2011-12 the Revised Target of Rs.781.62 Cr in RE 2011-12 will be achieved successfully. The collection of Non Tax Revenue has been revised from Rs. 137.13 Cr in B.E 2011-12 to Rs.162.13 Cr in R.E. 2011-12.

54. In the proposed Budget of 2012-13, a target of Rs. 893.41 Cr for collection of Own Tax Revenue has been kept which amounts to a growth rate of 14.3% over the expected receipts of the current year. In the BE of 2012-13, a target for collection of Non-Tax Revenue has been fixed at Rs.178.34 Cr with a Growth Rate of 10.0% over the revised target for 2011-12.

55. Receipt from State's share of Central taxes was budgeted at Rs.1283.60 Cr However, from the monthly receipts from centre it is expected that the share of Central taxes may come down to Rs.1230.00 Cr which has been incorporated in RE 2011-12. Under Non-plan gap grant State is expected to get Rs.934.00 Cr as per recommendation of 13th FC. The other anticipated Central transfers under Non-plan and Plan in RE 2011-12 have been kept as Rs.164.24 Cr and Rs.2520.58 Cr respectively against the BE 2011-12 target of Rs.179.23 Cr & Rs.2246.94 Cr respectively. Besides

this, total fund of Rs.607.15 Cr is expected to be received in R.E. 2011-12 as grants from other sources such as CSS, CP, NLCPR and NEC during the year against the BE 2011-12 of Rs. 425.00 Cr.

56. In BE 2012-13 the Receipts as State's share of Central Taxes and Non-plan gap grants from Centre to the State are expected to be Rs.1380.00 Cr and Rs.1030.00 Cr respectively. Besides this, total fund of Rs.567.98 Cr is expected to be received as grants from other sources such as CSS, CP, NLCPR and NEC during the year against the B.E. 2012-13.

57. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I want to propose substantial increase in State Plan even though there is resource crunch. Accordingly, for the year 2012-13, the expenditure under the State Plan is proposed to be Rs.2547.54 Cr as against Rs. 2085.56 Cr kept in Revised Estimates of 2011-12, which is 22.15% higher.

58. The Total Receipts in Budget Estimate for the year 2011-12 was Rs. 6612.87 Cr. The Revised Estimate prepared is for Rs.7054.72 Cr.

59. In the Budget of 2012-13, anticipated Total Receipts is assessed as Rs.7970.14 Cr. The anticipated expenditure in the Budget Estimate for 2012-13 is calculated at Rs.8119.47 Cr. This will leave a deficit of Rs.149.33 Cr in the Budget. This deficit is expected to be covered by increased fund flow from Central Sources, improving resource mobilization and reduction in non-developmental expenditure.

60. **The position in brief is:**

(Rs. in Crore)

(A) Revenue Account

1. Receipts	:	7164.14
2. Expenditure	:	5895.19
3. Surplus (A1 – A2)	:	1268.95

(B) Capital Account

1. Receipts from loans & others (including public account)	:	806.00
2. Disbursements	:	2224.28
3. Deficit (B1 – B2)	:	1418.28

(C) Total Receipts: (A1)+(B1) : 7970.14

(D) Total Expenditure: (A2)+(B2) : 8119.47

Deficit (C – D) : 149.33

61. Hon'ble Members, I hope that the detailed proposal mentioned above will withstand any resource crunch with sound fiscal management.

62. Hon'ble Members, the policies, programmes and initiatives outlined in this Budget would be welfare oriented besides leading to growth and development and sound fiscal management.

63. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with these words I commend the Budget proposals of 2012-13 for consideration and approval of this August House.
