

Mr. Speaker Sir,

1. I rise to present the budget for the year 2018-19.
2. Our Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) - IPFT Government has been blessed with an opportunity to serve the state of Tripura because of the unprecedented support, blessings and enthusiasm of 37 lakh citizens of Tripura. Earlier this year, the political landscape of the state underwent a metamorphosis. 'Chalo Poltoi' symbolized the hope and aspirations of the men and women, young and old, of the state who aspired to bring a positive change in their lives. The people of Tripura chose a coalition that symbolised these hopes & aspirations and a firm commitment to take the state forward towards peace and prosperity. For long years, the people of the state had witnessed obstructive opportunism of the ruling dispensation acutely hindering its potential to march ahead on the path of development along with other parts of the country. We are deeply humbled and extremely grateful to the people of the state and wish to repay their faith and confidence by working tirelessly for their progress led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Biplab Kumar Deb for Transforming Tripura.
3. Mr. Speaker Sir, our Government is led by a young and energetic Chief Minister and we are wholeheartedly committed to the development of Tripura. We aspire to take the fruits of development to each and every citizen of the state. In this endeavour, we are guided by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji's philosophy of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas.

4. The global growth is very strong during the year 2018 and is projected to stabilize at 3.1 percent in 2019 as per World Bank estimates. Trade has been expanding and the growth has touched most countries in the world. The prospects for growth have increased due to enhanced trade and downsizing of risks associated with global conflicts. Despite the global headwinds, under the astute leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Indian economy has yet again emerged as the fastest growing major economy in the world during the year 2017-18. The Indian Economy is robust, resilient and shall accelerate towards a further higher trajectory in the coming years. The Indian Economy grew at 7.7% in the last quarter of FY 2017-18 and thus has shown in growth in each of the four quarters during the Financial Year. Being guided by Hon'ble Prime Minister's mantra, 'Reform, Perform and Transform', the State Government of Tripura is now uniform in its developmental approach and pro-people attitude vis-a-vis the Central Government and shall ensure effective implementation of Central and State Government schemes for the benefit of the people. India has benefited from the twin reforms of demonetization and GST implementation and is on the road to achieve tremendous economic progress. We applaud the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister for these bold initiatives.

5. We expect the growth rate of Tripura to increase due to enhanced business confidence, investment activity and strong and timely support from Government of India and our vision for faster development of Tripura.

6. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government has inherited serious financial crisis as legacy of the previous Government's mismanagement of State finances and unending appetite for expenditure without having any revenue. The consequences of the misguided policies of the last government have been placed before the people of Tripura through the "White Paper" on the financial situation that we have inherited. The "White Paper" transparently reflects the huge financial deficit and the unsustainable financial policies adopted by the previous government which has left us with large uncommitted liabilities and borrowing without any adequate resources.

7. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government is determined to address all the long pending issues of the state so that we are able to meet the aspirations of the people, strengthen governance and lift poor people out of poverty. The previous Government used to hold poverty as a badge of honour. Politics of facade shall now make way for politics of development in Tripura. गरीबी और सादगी के मुखौटे वाली नहीं यह जनता के विश्वास और विकास को समर्पित सरकार है।

8. The State Government has drawn up 100 days Action Plan for each department. We will be informing the people of the state on the achievements of 100 days for their information. A number of measures were taken during the last three months to strengthen good governance, promote transparency and ensure that the Government is working for all the people without any bias, ideological considerations, nepotism or favoritism. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, the State Government is marching ahead towards building a 'New Tripura' in order to attain the objective of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision of building a 'New India'.

9. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has outlined his objective of doubling the farmers' income by the year 2022. Tripura's economy, primarily being an agrarian one, our Government is resolved to attain this objective and has already started initiating several measures in this regard.

10. In order to increase food grain production to meet the requirement of present population of the state, the target during 2018-19 has been fixed at 9.80 lakh tons as against the achievement of 8.54 lakh tons in 2017-18. Concerted efforts have been made for increasing rice production by way of increasing area under "System of Rice Intensification" (SRI) and Hybrid Paddy. About One lakh hectare area has been targeted to be covered under SRI during 2018-19 against the achievement of 93,345 hectare in 2017-18 and 60,000 hectare has been kept as target under Hybrid Paddy cultivation against 52,631 hectares achieved in 2017-18. This will increase production, productivity and profitability of the farmers.

11. Moreover, the State Govt. has also given special thrust for increasing production and productivity of Pulses & Oilseeds by utilizing the seasonal fallow land under "Crop Diversification Programme". The target for pulses area coverage during 2018-19 has been fixed at 34,755 hectare against the last year's achievement of 27,234 hectare. Similarly, the target for cultivation of Oilseeds during 2018-19 has been fixed at 29,400 hectare as against the achievement of 17,546 hectare in 2017-18.

12. The State Government has given special drive for covering more area and farmers under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

(PMFBY). As such, the Govt. has decided to meet the premium burden of farmers of High Risk Zone under the scheme of PMFBY to cover 21,500 hectare area under Paddy and Potato crops in addition to govt. share of premium cost from the State Plan fund. For early dissemination of improved technical knowledge at farmers' doorstep, the Govt. will open 36 Krishak Bandhu Kendras in a phased manner, one in each Agri. Sub-Division.

13. Farmers' welfare is critical for the prosperity of any society. Hon'ble Chief Minister has recently announced that the name of the Agricultural Department of the state shall be renamed to Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Every change initiates from a change in attitude. This renaming is not merely a decorative exercise like the days of the past but is the inception of an attitudinal shift in our Government's efforts to ensure that farmers' welfare remains our main objective while framing policies and programs.

14. Tripura has received Krishi Karman Award for highest production of food grains in Category-III States from the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 24th March, 2018 in a function organized in New Delhi by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. For exemplary work done under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, West Tripura has received Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration on 21st April, 2018.

15. Horticulture has a great potential to transform the economy of the rural areas in the State. The Government is determined to tap the potential of the State for promoting horticulture products and ensure area under horticulture is doubled in the next five years. The

Government will also take steps to link farms to markets, develop food processing, aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers. Recently, Pineapples of the state have been exported and 'Queen Pineapple' has been declared as State Fruit by our Honorable President of India with a view to promote pineapples of Tripura throughout the country and abroad. My Government shall soon announce its 'Horticulture Vision' for holistic development of the sector in the state.

16. Livestock plays important role in the rural economy. Sustainable growth and self sufficiency in animal origin food is the goal of the Government. The Government has initiated steps for doubling the farmer's income by 2022 by promoting integrated Farming System amongst the farmers with the full cooperation of Agriculture and Fisheries Departments.

17. Further, the government is planning to increase the income of farmers by providing poultry birds through Block Level Brooder House scheme and large white Yorkshire piglets for enhancing the Tribal farmers' income and also for increasing the Artificial insemination of cows by organizing more fertility camps in the State.

18. Tripura is the third smallest state in the country where 95% of its populace is fish eaters and fish is a delicacy both in fresh and processed forms among the tribe and non-tribe community of the State. Per capita fish consumption is reported to be highest among the inland States of the country. Thus, considering the high quantitative and qualitative demand of fish, the Government has been striving to raise fish production to meet the increasing demand of fish and

minimize the gap between present demand and supply of fish from local fish production.

19. In the current financial year, implementation of major fish production oriented schemes would be continued to increase fish production to cross 77630 ton mark by popularizing high yielding technologies in fish production.

20. One of the serious challenges that mankind is facing today is that of climate change. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emerged as a global leader in the field of climate change through his unwavering commitment towards fulfilling Paris Climate Agreement Commitments, championing International Solar Alliance and various other initiatives. To mitigate the adverse consequences of climate change, we have to conserve and protect the forests and biodiversity. Tripura is extremely rich in biodiversity which if, properly conserved and harnessed, it can play a significant role in soil and moisture conservation and also provide sustainable livelihoods to the local communities. In this regard, the Government has implemented Tripura JICA and Tripura IGDC projects with the aim of conserving natural resources with people's participation. The second phase of these projects is likely to be implemented from 2018-19 itself.

21. Tripura's rich forests and wildlife offer enormous potential for developing eco-tourism, including adventure tourism, which will create huge employment opportunities for the people. A number of initiatives for upgrading tourist infrastructure are being taken in wildlife sanctuaries and other forest areas under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme to cater to the expected increased arrival of tourists. The attitude of

the previous dispensation not merely kept the tourists from across the world away from the beauty of the state but also deprived our beloved citizens especially the tribal populations of opportunities from generating meaningful and sustainable livelihood and incomes. This measure shall ensure attainment of twin objectives- ecological balance as well as ecological tourism.

22. Under National Rural Livelihood Mission, 892 new Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were formed during the 100-day period, which is over 52% of 1,713 SHGs formed during entire year 2017-18. Total 8,138 households have been mobilised through these new Groups. It is noteworthy that one of our SHGs, namely, Maayer Ashirwaad SHG of Jolaibari, has got a National Award for outstanding performance, at New Delhi on 11.06.2018.

23. The government undertook capacity building programmes for as many as 3,631 elected representatives and functionaries within the 100-day period. The State also got a National Award as one of the better-performing States for promoting use of ICT tools for empowering panchayats on the National Panchayat Day on 24.04.2018, which was received by me from Hon'ble Prime Minister.

24. During April-May, 2018, total 12.58 lakhs persondays of employment was generated against only 6.50 lakhs persondays during corresponding period last year. This achievement was despite serious transitional problems this year at field level, with about 1/3rd of elected representatives of Gram Panchayats tendering their resignations. Further, over 10,000 acres of bamboo and other plantations are being

taken up under MGNREGA this year to create income-generating assets for the people.

25. There was also special emphasis on improving quality of implementation of MGNREGA. For the first time, as many as 45 District and Block level Good Governance workshops were held, focusing on proper maintenance of records in Gram Panchayats, regular updation and verification of job cards, installation of proper citizen information boards on each project site, etc. As many as 23,418 assets were geo-tagged during this period.

26. Our Government is committed to ensure that progress and development reaches each and every section of the society, each and every corner of the state. We are committed to taking the fruits till the last person in the society which shows our resolve towards Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya ji's philosophy of 'Antyodaya'. The socio-economic, educational and cultural development of Scheduled Tribes has been top most priority of the State Govt. In this regard, various steps are being taken for creating educational infrastructure facilities, skill development, promotion and preservation of the culture of the Scheduled Tribes.

27. Free coaching classes have been arranged for ST students for appearing in the Joint Entrance Examinations for admission in Medical, Engineering and other professional courses. Free coaching classes for appearing in IAS Examination has also been arranged for ST students at New Delhi and Agartala.

28. Important activities planned to be achieved during the financial year 2018-19 includes support to ST children for higher education by providing Boarding House Stipend, Post-Matric Scholarship, Pre-Matric Scholarship, Merit Award, Supply of Free Text Books, Coaching to Drop-out Madhyamik failed Students, Special coaching in core subjects and re-construction of Boarding Houses etc.

29. The Government is pleased to announce increase of boarding house stipend for ST/SC students studying in boarding houses from the existing rate of Rs. 55/- per day to Rs. 65/- per day. This will cost the government Rs. 7.80 crores benefiting 26000 students.

30. The development and progress of Scheduled Castes, other backward classes and Minorities shall be an important priority for the government. We will take up plans for their integrated development by ensuring access to quality education, infrastructure development, and health care. State Government will give priority to them in skill development, loan sanction and assisting them in finding self employment. Loans also will be provided through SC Corporation, OBC Corporation and Minorities Corporation to the eligible persons for their economic upliftment. The Special Packages will be implemented more sincerely for the development of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities in the state. Loans also will be provided through SC Corporation, OBC Corporation and Minority Corporation to the eligible persons for their economic upliftment. In this regard, we will be guided by 'Sab ka saath Sab ka vikas' philosophy of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

31. Our Government is committed to supply food grains as per provision of "the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013" in the State with coverage of about 25 lakh beneficiaries (persons) comprising two categories, i.e., Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH). The rice is supplied at the rate of Rs.2/- per kg.

as against Rs.3.00 per kg. fixed by Government of India and an annual subsidy of Rs.16.5 crore is borne from the State exchequer. Other families not covered under NFSA are also supplied rice under PDS at the rate of Rs. 13/- per kg. Sugar is also supplied through ration shops at subsidized rate at the monthly scale of 1(one) kg. per Ration card only for Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families as per revised sugar policy of Govt. of India. Rice is also supplied for the beneficiaries under Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) including Annapurna, Sabala, WBNP, SNP and MDM as per schematic pattern.

32. The Government is providing Rs. 65 per month for each ration card holder as subsidy for 2 kgs of pulses and one litre of mustard oil. It may be noted that subsidy is available for all families irrespective of their income criteria. You all agree that subsidy should be well directed to be meaningful. We propose to exclude those households from the scheme who are not NFSA beneficiaries for better targeting of poor and saving avoidable expenditure.

33. In order to improve PDS delivery system and its transparency, Aadhaar based delivery through fair price shops has been implemented and 1748 FP shops out of 1806 FP shops have been made live. To ensure adequate capacity to maintain buffer stock of PDS, 3500 MT more storage capacity would be added to the existing capacity of 68,500 MT. To ensure people living in interior tribal areas are free from hunger, the government is proposing to identify "Distress Paras" and provide free rations to them.

34. The Government attaches highest priority for the development of quality, accessible and affordable healthcare for all sections of the

population in the State. The Government will improve primary healthcare by ensuring that healthcare staff, equipment and adequate medicines are available in Government hospitals. The Government will improve infrastructure and functioning of GB, IGM and Cancer Hospitals. The Government will try to improve functioning of district and sub division hospitals by trying to provide essential specialist doctors to benefit poor patients.

35. Presently the Government is providing Health Care Services, Emergency Services and Preventive Services through 6(Six) State Hospitals including one Speciality Hospital, 6(Six) District Hospitals, 12 (twelve) Sub-divisional Hospitals, 22 (twenty two) Community Health Centres (CHCs), 108 (one hundred and eight) Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 1025 (one thousand and twenty five) Health Sub-Centres (HSCs) to the people of the State.

36. The Government is planning to complete the construction works of New Teaching Hospital –Block-II at AGMC & G. B. Pant Hospital complex, construction of B+G+6 building and Linac Block at Cancer Hospital and 03 (three) Blocks at IGM Hospital. The Government has also planned to expedite the construction works of Super Specialty Block with 7 Super Specialties at G. B. Pant Hospital Complex. Construction of three level –III Trauma Centres for District Hospitals, North at Dharmanagar, District Hospital, Gomati at Udaipur and District Hospital, South at Santirbazar will be started. Process for construction of six more Sub-divisional / Sub-divisional level Hospitals are in progress. Construction works of one ANM Training Centre will be started at Durjoynagar, Agartala. Construction works of MCH Wings

will be started at GBP Hospital, Agartala, District Hospital Gomati at Udaipur and Sub-divisional Hospital, Belonia. Central Government has recently announced a landmark initiative- Ayushman Bharat for imparting health insurance to a substantial section of the society. Government of Tripura is committed to ensuring its effective implementation and for delivering relief to large number of citizens in the state (71% of the population).

37. At present there are 20 Generic Medicine Counters and we are planning to open 8 more Generic Medicine Counters in Health Institutions. Four Cardiac Care Units will be established in Unakoti, Dhalai, Gomati and South Tripura Districts and Medicine Specialists will be trained from AIIMS/ PGIMER, Chandigarh for the same. Eight Mobile Labs for the purpose of testing LFT, KFT, Lipid Profile, Diabetes profile etc. will be procured and it will be used for the purpose of Outreach activities. Training will be given to Doctors and Nurses for establishing of Day Care Chemotherapy Centres in District Hospitals.

38. For the first time the Government has conducted Online counseling for Post Graduate seats for admission in Government run and Private Sector (Society) Colleges. One ANM School in West Tripura district will be established during the year. Setting up of one State Institution of Para Medical Sciences in Tripura and setting up of College of Para Medical Education in Government sector will be initiated within the premises of Agartala Government Medical College.

39. Skills Labs will be established at Medical College and GBP Hospital, Tripura Medical College, Hapania and Unakoti District Hospital for skill development of staff nurses. "102" Patient Transportation

Services will be introduced with GPS fitted Basic Life Support (BLS) for free transportation of patients on 24X7 basis especially JSSK beneficiaries linked with call centre dial "102". The government shall also integrate existing 148 Ambulances under centralized call centre '102' to transport patients on every working day from 10 AM to 5.30 PM. '104' Health Helpline & Grievance Redressal System has been proposed for 24X7 basis to receive, register and address the grievances, health related queries and feedback from community through toll free No.'104'.

40. To ensure rights, welfare, safety and security of livelihoods of labour and workers engaged in different establishments, 24 labour Laws are strictly enforced in the state. In addition, a good number of Labour welfare schemes are implemented to ensure social and economic security for the people of the State.

41. My Government is attaching very high priority for development of quality education in Tripura. The misplaced priorities of previous Government have resulted in development of poor quality education infrastructure and unsatisfactory outcomes for the students. The Government wishes to rationalize and review allocation of resources to ensure best quality education for every student of Tripura from qualified teachers so that students are enabled to achieve their career goals. The Government is also planning to set up technology base for the purpose of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) teachers training.

42. There are 3346 nos. schools with 5,59,885 children functioning for elementary education and all-out efforts are being made to improve

the quality of education. An innovative teaching learning process namely "Uddipan" for improving learning level of early grade children has been launched in all 1333 schools of 11 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) along with SC, ST dominated areas of the State. Under Mid-day Meal (MDM) programme, 4,65,525 children are being covered in 4471 Primary Schools units and 2097 Upper Primary units. During last year, Automated Monitoring System has been rolled out in the State for better implementation of the scheme.

43. I am happy to announce a proposal to install and maintain LPG connections in all schools with more than 50 students for cooking midday meals in the state. This will cover 3678 schools units and will involve an expenditure of Rs 4.96 crores annually additionally. There is serious shortage of trained teachers in the State. The efforts of the State Government to recruit trained teachers have not been very successful in the past due to short sighted and less than transparent policies of the previous government. Therefore, with a view to prepare qualified teachers for recruitment to schools, I am pleased to announce a proposal to set up four new B.Ed colleges in the state during the year in Dharmanagar, Belonia and two Colleges in Agartala out of which one college will be exclusively for Women. This will be a great opportunity to the unemployed youth to acquire required qualifications for employment in the state. I am also happy to announce that Government is proposing to come up with a scheme to finance pursuit of B.Ed course outside Tripura by the eligible youth of Tripura in accredited institutions. Government will also encourage setting up of private B.Ed institutions in the state to meet the shortage of qualified teachers within next 5 years.

44. The government has taken a decision to award tablets/computers to top 5 (Five) students securing over all highest mark in class X and class XII in Tripura Board of Secondary Education. Along with this the top 5 (Five) students among girls, SCs, STs, minority communities and OBCs also will be awarded. The award will also be given to the students securing highest marks in each of the subject.

45. In order to strengthen IT education in the State a path-breaking initiative of starting of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) from academic year 2018-19 in the campus of NIT, Agartala has been taken. As the previous Government has not taken up the project at proper time, there is 50% cost escalation of the project. Had this project been carried out on time without unnecessary delays, cost escalation of 50% would not had occurred which we now have to bear.

46. Social Welfare & Social Education is an important priority for the government. The Government is implementing various measures and schemes for welfare, development and security of children, adolescent girls, women, divyang jan and senior citizens. For ensuring social security, it is also providing pensions to vulnerable sections of the target group.

47. More than 4.22 lakhs beneficiaries are covered under 33 Social Security pension Schemes. We have allocated more than 300 crores for payment of various Social security pension schemes. Under Integrated Child Development Scheme, 56 ICDS Projects with 9911 Angawadi Centers with 3.49 lakhs children and 0.75 lakhs pregnant and lactating women are enrolled.

48. Government will take measures to ensure complete transparency in the payment of all social pensions to the deserving and eligible persons only. Towards this end, the Government will review various pensions given in the state to weed out ineligible, dead and bogus names from the list of pensioners. However, payment of pensions to the existing beneficiaries shall continue till the review is completed.

49. State Government has approved Implementation of the Tripura Victim Compensation Scheme, 2018 which is an improved version of the previous scheme to bring it in alignment with the Central Victim Compensation Fund Scheme.

50. Tripura has got excellent track record in Games, Sports and Youth activities. The Government is focused on harnessing the youth talent in the state and will take up all measures required to achieve the objective. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister recently gave the slogan of 'Khelo Tripura, Swasth Tripura' for creating a culture of sports in order to build a healthy society.

51. Mr Speaker Sir, our Government is committed to reward meritorious and talented youth to achieve highest success in their life. Therefore, with a view to recognize such meritorious and talented youth in the field of education, sports, games and culture, I am pleased to announce that the Government is proposing to launch a new scheme by name Mukhyamantri Prathibhashali Purashkar to provide financial incentives to them based on their academic and cultural excellence and sporting talent and achievements, without any consideration for caste, region, language or religion. Detailed guidelines shall be issued for its implementation.

52. My Government is attaching top priority to promote traditional cultural activities among the diverse communities of the State. Cultural workshops & training programs are organized in every district to encourage local artistes and to demonstrate cultural activities in the District. Due to such initiatives, a large number of people could participate in several events and many artistes were able to show their talents.

53. Justice delivery by implementing the laws without any fear or favour shall be the policy of our government. Special attention shall be given to prosecute offenders who had committed crimes against women, children and elderly. I am happy to announce that three more districts courts shall be set up at Khowai, Dhalai and Sepahijala districts. This measure will ensure that litigants will get justice in their own districts and will save time and money. By ensuring optimal utilisation of digital platforms, my Government shall take all possible measures to enhance the Access to Justice to the people of the state. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, here I would like to make an important point. Several old and archaic laws are the relics from the past which continue to remain in our Statute Books and cause great inconvenience to the common citizens.

54. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Central Government undertook a landmark initiative to review all the Central Laws and during the 4 years of its tenure, has repealed over 1200 laws. Speaker Sir, Chalo Poltoi was not merely a political slogan but it was our commitment to bring a real change, a tangible difference in the lives of the people of Tripura. My Government has declared the constitution of a committee which shall undertake

an extensive review of these old and archaic laws and repeal the ones which are outdated or have served their purpose. Going a step further from the Central Government's initiative and taking cognizance of the key recommendation made in the Economic Survey of India, my Government shall undertake a holistic review of the by-laws and regulations which are currently being implemented in the state so as to ensure that Prime Minister's objective of enhancing the Ease of Living for the citizens is achieved.

55. The new Government has priority to design and implement a time-bound plan for building all weather roads to interconnect all villages in the state. So far, out of total 8132 habitations, 7287 habitations including 3693 habitations under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, have been connected with all-weather roads till February, 2018, and at present works are in progress to connect 432 more habitations in the State.

56. The number of NHs has been increased to six with a total length of 853 KM in the state and four more roads of 229.25 km has been considered as NH in principle. For upgration and widening 2 lane paved shoulder kof Agartala-Udaipur-Sabroom road, works of more than 100 kms out of design length of 121 kms has been completed by March 2018. Out of that, the stretch from Udaipur to Sabroom has been inaugurated by Hon'ble President of India. My Government is committed to completion of the Feni bridge project at the earliest.

57. The work of Flyover at Agartala is expected to be completed shortly.

58. The Government is working to enhance quality of life of the rural people by providing safe and sustainable drinking water supply facilities to all habitations through piped water supply. All the 8,723 habitations as per 2014 base line were provided drinking water supply. Presently 6118 Nos. habitations have attained fully covered (FC) status of over 40 liters per capita per day water supply and 2587 Nos. habitations have reached partially covered (PC) status with water supply between 10 to 40 liters per capita per day. In Urban areas, all the Urban Towns have been provided Drinking water through piped water supply system with Surface Water Treatment Plant except Mohanpur Town, whereas, in Bishalgarh Town SWTP & in Sabroom Town GWTP is in progress.

59. During 2017-18, 6 Surface water Treatment plants, 7 Innovative Schemes, 65 Deep tube wells, 10 Iron removal plants, 21 Ground water treatment plants, 69 Small bore deep tube wells and 109 Spot sources have been commissioned. In addition, 17 Deep tube wells, 36 Small bore deep tube wells, 1 Iron removal plant and 2 Innovative schemes are ready for commissioning. Further, works are ongoing for 7 Surface Water Treatment Plants, 11 Ground water treatment plants, 6 Iron removal plants, 91 Deep tube wells, 30 Small bore deep tube wells and 14 Innovative schemes. 349.20 K.M pipeline extended in the aforesaid schemes and in addition, 61.56 K.M pipeline is in progress.

60. The activities planned during the year 2018-19 include construction of 7 ongoing Surface Water Treatment Plants, 33 Ground Water Treatment Plants and 16 Iron Removal Plants, Sinking of 267 Deep Tube Wells, commissioning of ongoing 240 Deep Tube Wells,

Sinking & Commissioning of 238 Small Bore Tube Wells and 38 Innovative schemes. These would enable conversion of all 18 slipped back habitations to partially or fully covered status and 650 other partially covered habitations to fully covered status.

61. For ensuring 100 percent rural sanitation coverage and promotion of hygiene practices among the rural people, Government has taken extensive Information, Education & Communication (IEC) activities along with construction of IHHLs for achieving Open Defecation Free Status for all Gram panchayets & Village councils of the state. Towards this goal during the FY 2017-18, total 30241 toilets have been constructed, another 50084 toilets are in progress. State has also reconstructed 16855 dysfunctional toilets under the funding of Swachh Bharat Kosh Trust & reconstruction of another 22249 dysfunctional toilets is going on. Apart from completion of spill-over works from 2017-18, the targets have been fixed for construction of new 162728 IHHL units & 36 Community Sanitary Complexes and reconstruction of 68606 dysfunctional toilets.

62. State has a plan to achieve Open Deification Free (ODF) status by 15th August, 2018 in line with the priority and vision of our Prime Minister.

63. The total cultivable land in the state is assessed to be 2,55,241 hectares. Out of this, an area of 1,16,659 hectares has been brought under irrigation coverage up to 31st March 2018. The State Government has an action plan for an overall coverage of 1,40,380 hectares cultivable land under irrigation by 2021-22. Priority is being given for completion of various ongoing schemes. Scope of further implementation of scheme based on surface water is almost exhausted,

therefore, presently, emphasis is given for construction of minor irrigation storage schemes by rainwater harvesting and deep tube well schemes utilizing ground water resources.

64. The mission for the Urban development is to improve quality of lives of urban citizens, development of urban services and assets. The Government is committed for developing safe, secure and livable urban spaces with modern infrastructure for the citizens living in the urban areas. The Government proposes to cover all the left out beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Others schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission and Dindayal Antyodaya Yojana and Tripura Urban Employment Programme are also implemented in the state on a fast track mode. The Government of Tripura is proposing to construct 32876 pucca houses under PMAY scheme during the year. The Government of India had earlier approved the proposal of Government of Tripura under erstwhile Rajib Awas Yojana for construction of 2348 dwelling houses which are near completion and works of 657 dwelling houses are in progress. Agartala will be developed as a Smart City with many modern features to enable the citizens to enjoy the amenities. A number of projects with cost of Rs.165.86 Crores have been taken up which are in different stages of implementation.

65. Under the inspired leadership of the Prime Minister, the country is moving forward under Swachh Bharat Mission. We take great pride in participating in this mission of the Prime Minister. All Urban Local Bodies are taking steps for construction of individual toilets at the cost of Rs. 12000/- and also community toilets. It is our intention to make all Urban Local Bodies - Open Defecation Free (ODF) during the

year. Dindayal Antyodaya Yojana is now extended to 32 ULBs and the scheme is implemented vigorously in the State.

66. A number of schemes were taken up to supply safe drinking water in urban areas. Government is also proposing to revise drinking water and sewerage charges in urban areas to ensure water is not wasted and sustainable systems are created to maintain the assets for supply of assured safe drinking water to the people.

67. To truly make Agartala as a smart city and build resilient to annual flooding, State Government proposes to build two reservoirs at upper catchments of Howrah river near Champaknagar (estimated cost Rs.50 crore) and on Champaicherra near Champaibari (estimated Rs.125 crore) including preparation of DPR (estimated cost Rs. 6.00 crore). The project has been approved under North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESID)

68. The State cabinet has launched a special one month's Energy Conservation Campaign for adopting energy conservation measures and for promoting use of LED bulbs. Tripura has achieved distinction of having converted all street lights in Urban Local Body areas to LED except some extended areas of Agartala Municipal Corporation. About 9.43 lakh LED bulbs and tubes have been sold throughout the state on a consumer base of 7.4 lakh. Because of LEDs alone, peak demand has been avoided by 25 MW with savings of Rs. 49 cr. The Unakoti and West Districts were awarded by Union Minister, Power for best performance in LED distribution programme during 2017-18. Awards have been announced for best performing villages under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

69. The State Government decided to take several specific steps which will reduce the energy consumption in the State by 10% during 2018-19. From the 'Peak Demand Drawal Pattern', it was found that there is already a reduction of 26.57 MW in average Peak Demand during May 2018 which is 10.87% of average peak demand of 2017-18.

70. On-line New Service Connection was launched by TSECL as advanced IT Enabled Consumer Services on 2nd May' 2018. Along with that an Android Mobile application for TSECL Consumers was also launched on same day.

71. Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji outlined the HIRA model for development of Tripura. HIRA which stands for development of Highways, i-Ways, Railways and Airways for ensuring transformation of Tripura. Sir, Tripura is often considered as a laggard and at the 'tip' of the North-East due to its Government and the dedication and commitment of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, my Government is committed to bring Tripura to the front and make it the Gateway for South and South-East Asia. My Government is attaching highest priority for providing robust connectivity within the state and with neighboring states to emerge as gateway to Southeast Asia. Government of Tripura has taken up with the Government of India for early completion of railroad projects in the State.

72. Mr Speaker Sir, Hon'ble members are aware that the railway line has been extended up to Garjee and passenger train has been connected between Agartala – Udaipur and Udaipur – Garjee.

Construction works of railway line between Garjee – Belonia section is expected to be commissioned shortly. Belonia – Sabroom section is targeted for completion in June 2019. The project of Agartala – Akhaura rail line is progressing well. The project would link Indian Railway Network with Bangladesh Railway Network, thereby opening up North East India including Tripura to the main land states of India through Bangladesh. There would be access to Ashuganj Port and Chittagong Port which are most important gateways for easy movement of goods and services. The total project cost sanctioned by the Ministry of DONER stands at Rs. 580.00 crore. The N.F. Railway reported that the project work is going on in full swing.

73. Railway network in the state is expanding on a fast track. Entire state will come under rail network when the plans are executed. This is all part of vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister to connect Northeast India with East Asian countries for trade and business development. The Government of Tripura is deeply indebted to Government of India esp to our beloved Prime Minister and Railway Minister for their strong support for development of Tripura.

74. Agartala Airport, which is the second busiest airport in the northeast region is being modernized through creation of all requisite facilities so that it would become an International airport for facilitating travel of passengers. The Government of India had approved an amount of Rs.438 Cr for the Project. State Govt. has already handed over 76. 54 acres of land to Airports Authority of India. The State Government has spent Rs. 38.13 crores for land acquisition and rehabilitation etc. Ministry of Shipping, Government of India has sanctioned fund for development of Inland water transport on Gomati

river in Tripura with a view to setting up linkage with Meghna river system in Bangladesh under 100 % Central Sector Scheme.

75. Road safety is an important priority for the State Government and the Government will take coordinated measures to reduce road accidents and to provide medical care immediately in case of accidents. Patrolling of national high ways, road crossing signs, scientific traffic management and signals, continuous awareness campaign and strict enforcement of issuance of driving licenses are some of the measures the government is proposing to take to reduce road accidents in the state. With a view to ensure adequate funding to road safety measures envisaged, it is proposed to give 50% of enforcement fines collected to Road Safety Fund set up in the State.

76. During the financial year 2018-19, Rs. 21.00 crores was kept under Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa (BEUP) scheme and this amount shall be released @ Rs. 35.00 lakh to each of 60 Assembly Constituency in two installments (first installment @ 60% and second installment @ 40%) for implementation of works as per recommendation of the concerned MLAs.

77. The Sustainable Development Goals, approved by the United Nations, are universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all the people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 Global Goals to be achieved by the World by 2030 have been adopted by the Government of India. The state Government will take the Call to Action very seriously and work to achieve the goals in the state at the earliest. The Government shall prepare detailed plan of action to be achieved for all the 17 Goals.

78. Speaker Sir, Tourism has great potential in Tripura. Hon'ble President of India recently laid the foundation stone for the Matabari Temple Complex Development Project earlier this month. Tourism is fast growing service industry in the world. There are many countries and States in India who are mostly dependent on tourism for employment and development. We propose to develop Tripura as one of the attractive tourism destinations in the country by developing tourism potential. In this regard, Government has taken up several measures including setting up of a Trust for development of Matabari Temple and a new plan for Narikel Kunj in Gandacherra. There are also plans for potential places like Trishna, Sepahijala and Unakoti which would be developed into attractive tourist destinations. We would like to provide standard facilities to the tourists and ensure safety and proper ease of connectivity.

79. Government is proposing to allow tourists to stay in Forest Guest Houses which are not being utilized presently for attracting more tourists and better utilization of available infrastructure in the State by associating private sector in PPP mode. Government is also proposing to allow Tea Gardens to undertake non tea activities including development of tourism infrastructure to promote tourists and productive utilization of land in the Tea Gardens. Government is also exploring how best to utilize abandoned gardens for generating employment and income to the people living in the Tea Garden areas.

80. The government is taking steps on revamping of tourist Information Centre at Agartala, to set up IT based interactive kiosks for tourists and redesign Tripura tourism web site for aggressive marketing. The role of community participation will be increased in tourism by promoting Home stay/ Bed & Breakfast concept.

81. Environmental degradation and climate change have become the foremost concern of mankind today. We are aware of the threats to our environment from unsustainable practices and therefore, the Government is following a holistic approach to address the challenges. The Government is proposing to set up Solar Power Plant, Solar Pumping System in rural areas and installation of LED based Solar System to promote green energy in the State. Speaker Sir, it is necessary to stay in tune with the latest technologies of the 21st century and ensure its effective usage for the development of the state. The State government shall undertake holistic review in the field of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things and Blockchain technology which shall help usher in an era of fair, transparent and effective governance in the state.

82. The National land Records and Modernisation Programme (NLRMP) is being implemented successfully in our State for digitization of land records. Digitization of Maps have also been completed. Last year three new Sub-Registry Offices have been opened at Mohanpur, Jirania and Kumarghat. Now online registration of deeds is being done in 20 Sub-registry offices in the state having integration with CLR database. Out of 222 TKs, 98 Tehsil Kacharies of the state have been computerized during the year 2017-18.

83. There are still more than 30,000 Bru (Reang) migrants in the Relief Camps of North Tripura District, who had migrated from Mizoram about 20 years back. A joint Monitoring Group (JMG) and a Joint Working Group (JWG) have been constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India to oversee the Repatriation, Skill & Entrepreneur Development respectively of the Bru (Reang) migrants.

As per Road Map prepared and placed by the Govt. of Mizoram, the identification and registration of Bru migrants residing in 6(six) Relief Camps have already been completed. Physical repatriation of the migrants not yet started.

84. Through a recent Cabinet decision, our Government has implemented the e-Stamping rules in the state. Sir, when a Government has Saaf Niyat, Sahi Vikaas shall always take place. These rules could have been passed a few years back also but it required resolve and commitment which our Government showed and hence, e-Stamping is now a reality in the state generating tremendous benefits for citizens and the Government alike.

85. Comprehensive review of allotments of Government land to various organisations/ institutions during last 25 years is being undertaken. Also a survey was conducted to identify unauthorised occupation of Government land by political party's offices and action also initiated to remove such unauthorized encroachments. 613 no. offices of political parties were identified which were under unauthorised occupation and 197 nos of such unauthorised structures have been removed so far and remaining ones will be removed at the earliest.

86. We will ensure that Panchayats represent all the people in every GP and that special efforts shall be made to take action against any corrupt practices and mismanagement of funds devolved to them.

87. As mandated by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, the Government has decided to introduce Public Financial Management System (PFMS) in all the GPs and for the first phase, out

of 591 GPs, 178 GPs got registered. Along with that 8 Zilla Parishads and 35 Panchayat Samities are also registered in PFMS platform to promote cashless transaction and increasing transparency and monitoring at different levels.

88. The process of linking e-Panchayat applications like PRIASoft, PlanPlus, ActionSoft with PFMS is still under progress in the Ministry side and Government of Tripura is highly geared to adopt the same in the State.

89. Ministry has mandated to geotag all the assets created through 14th Finance Commission from 2017-18 till date with the help of advanced applications like M-ActionSoft and Government of Tripura is also ready to move on with full pace.

90. The commissioning of internet connectivity in all the 1178 GPs / VCs are also in progress under BharatNet initiative and is expected to be completed by 31st March 2019.

91. With the all round support and cooperation from the people of the State, particularly from the interior areas, the Government has been able to achieve commendable success during the year. The insurgents could not revive their activities and were compelled to remain in their hideouts across the border. The general crime under heads of Dacoity, Burglary, Robbery, Murder, Rioting and crime against women, etc remained under control. The law and order situation has improved notably and is well under control. However, it is a matter of deep concern for all of us as a society about the continued violence against women. My Government is seriously committed to take strong action against those who are committing violence against women.

92. The Government continues to be very careful and alert to identify tendencies of any divisiveness and designs of vested interests for stoking public resentment or communal conflagration. Therefore, with a view to ensure that the State is adequately prepared to face any potential law and order problems, the Government of India has sanctioned two more India Reserve (IR) battalions to the state which would generate over 2000 new employment opportunities. The Government of Tripura is very grateful to the Ministry of Home Affairs for their continued support and generosity. In this regard, I would like to express my gratitude to Shri Rajnath Singhji Hon'ble Union Home Minister for his consideration.

93. To promote more women in Police and also to convey the government's strong support for women empowerment, we have recently decided to reserve 10% of all posts horizontally for women. Speaker Sir, this decision is a reflection of our resolve for the development of Nari Shakti in the state. We believe in not merely Women Development but in 'Women Led Development' and hence, all our programs and schemes will focus on ensuring that women become an equal stakeholder in the progress and development of Tripura.

94. Another area of concern is the cultivation and cross border trade in "ganja". Our government intends to deal with this menace with iron-hand. The government is committed for crime free Tripura, Nesha Mukta Tripura and intends to deal sternly with land mafia, sand mafia, syndicate mafia. The government has launched 'Dial 100' to respond to all calls of people for police help and assistance with the motive of "Apnader police- Apnader shanghe".

95. In order to professionalize police investigation, Tripura Police Crime Branch will be set up on the pattern of police force of cities like Delhi with special focus to effectively control drug related and other heinous crimes specially against women.

96. Process has been initiated for adoption of e-prisons software of various prisoners in Jails / Sub-Jails of Tripura. Initiative for installation of Mobile Jammer at Kendriya Sansodhanagar, Bishalgarh has been taken up. Meditation and Yoga Exercise training is being introduced to the prisoners in Jails / Sub-Jails to improve their physical and mental health. Cultural activities are being conducted on different occasions for recreation as well as development of positive attitude of the Jail inmates.

97. Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister has time and again placed considerable emphasis on improving the Ease of Doing Business in the country. Through cooperative and competitive federalism, we are witnessing a healthy competition among the states towards improving the business climate across the country. Speaker Sir, the world has entered the 21st century but in Tripura, due to the myopic worldview of the ruling dispensations in the past, we have not been able to stay in tune with the modern-day developments which has led to trade and commerce becoming severely uncompetitive in the state. An important facet of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb's vision for Transforming Tripura is to foster a conducive climate for entrepreneurship in order to build a robust and vibrant economy in the state. The Government is committed to facilitating trade promotion, planned infrastructure development, value addition to local resources, support to investors in the form of incentives and boosting the

entrepreneurship skills and self-employment efforts. Significant progress has been made in developing the industrial infrastructure in the state.

98. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is being implemented in the state for promotion of self-employment. My Government also shall implement other related Central Schemes such as Start up India, Stand up India, Mudra Loan Yojana with rigour across the state.

99. To hand hold and guide the investors, an "Investor Facilitation Cell" has been constituted in the Directorate of Industries & Commerce. Similarly, in each District Industries Centres (DICs), one "Entrepreneurs Guidance Cell" has been constituted. The Government of India has been giving enormous importance to 'Ease of Doing Business' to promote entrepreneurship and business development. The State Government is also committed to welcome business entrepreneurs to the State and issue faster approvals and clearances. In order to ensure proper system with legal backing, it is proposed to introduce "The Tripura Industrial (Facilitation) Act, 2018" to provide single-window clearance facility to the investors.

100. The infrastructure available at Land Customs Stations (LCS) at Manughat and Muhurighat for trade with Bangladesh are being upgraded into Integrated Development Complex. Efforts are on to set up two more Border Haats at Dhalai and North Tripura Districts. Locally available resources like Rubber, Bamboo, Tea, natural gas, fruits & vegetables etc. are identified as "Thrust sectors" for maximum value addition and additional incentives are being provided to these

sectors under the Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme, 2017.

101. This Government places highest priority for development of skills among the youth of the state for self-employment and wage employment. About 7.41 lakh youth are registered with the employment exchanges. With the active support of Skill India programme of Government of India, we are confident to find employment opportunities to those who want to stand on their own feet by developing skills and entrepreneurship among the unemployed youth of the state. The target for skill development for the next two years in the state is about 1.40 lakh youth. Priority will be given to unemployed youth in sectors like agriculture, horticulture, services, handlooms and handicrafts, food processing etc. In addition to existing 16 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), 3 more new ITIs are being set up at Gandachara, Kanchanpur and Santirbazar. We are also working with a vision to create new employment avenues for the educated youth through skill enhancement in the emerging sectors.

102. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister considers the eight states of India as the Ashtalaxmi. He has championed the cause of bamboo production in order to give significant boost to economic and agricultural activity in the North East through the National Bamboo Mission. The state Government is attaching highest priority for development of bamboo in the state since it constitutes the most important resource of Tripura's forests. The Union Government is also giving huge importance to this sector and has already relaxed legal provisions relating to bamboo harvesting with a view to facilitate its farming in private and patta lands. The State expects to benefit

from the central sector schemes as well as the externally aided projects for the development of bamboo resources and providing employment to the people. The State Bamboo Mission is a pioneer initiative of the state Government that has resulted in plantation of high yielding varieties of species, skill development of artisans and market development of bamboo products benefiting a large number of tribal families. The state Government has launched a programme to ensure that all vacant lands are properly put to productive use for the development of the state. Bamboo will be planted in forest areas, on khas lands and on vacant government lands keeping in view the vision of our Prime Minister to develop bamboo resources within the country.

103. The Government is working for creating sustainable income for weavers, artisans and rearers by development of handlooms, handicrafts and sericulture in the state by revamping and developing a comprehensive strategy for marketing, new designs and skill upgradation of artisans. The government will engage unemployed youth on incentive system to market the products. The Government is taking measures to promote ethnic handlooms outside Tripura for increasing income of the tribal weavers in the State. A Silk Printing Unit to produce silk products within the state will be commissioned shortly to print more silk products in the state.

104. The State Government is focussing on digital infrastructure towards “Digital Tripura” in line with Digital India initiative of Government of India. Under the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Project, Laljuri and Raisyabari Block would be connected by this financial year.

105. Around 80 applications and 120 websites are hosted and running from Tripura State Data Center (TSDC). Software Technology Park at Lichubagan is operational and Software Technology Park at Indranagar would be made operational by this financial year. It is the endeavour of the Government to provide online citizen centric services and till now 20 services have been made operational under Digital Seva (e-District) portal and steps will be taken to provide more services in future. Presently, 969 Common Service Centres have been set up covering 571 panchayat /village committees to provide e-services to the citizens.

106. As part of Digital India initiative, a decision is taken to make all gazette notifications, both ordinary and extraordinary, available online. A separate website called www.e-gazette.tripura.gov.in has been launched for this purpose.

107. The world has become digitally interconnected and the smart phone is the new passport that will open up huge opportunities to the youth educationally, for development of skills and finding resources to enhance knowledge and more employment opportunities. I am extremely happy to announce introducing a scheme to distribute free smart phones to the college going youth of Tripura, as first step, with the objective to connect them with the digital world.

108. The State Government has decided to introduce the online system for accommodation in Tripura Bhavans in Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati. To ensure punctuality in the Secretariat the Government has decided to implement Bio-metric attendance system for the employees.

109. The Chief Minister inaugurated online system of Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring on 27th April 2018. All the Departments have been brought under the preview of this system including the DMs and SPs.

110. To run an open government that is easily accessible, Hon'ble Chief Minister is meeting the general public thrice a week, twice at his residence and once at Secretariat at Janata Darbar. Follow-up actions are being taken on all complaints. The Public Grievance Portal records the status of follow up action taken. To further take the government closer to the people, Hon'ble Chief Minister has now decided to hold such interactions in Districts as well.

111. Under the vision of our Honorable Prime Minister for 'One India One Tax' dream, Tripura has effectively rolled out the Goods and Services Tax without any major inconvenience to the common man and businesses. Implementation of GST has benefited Tripura in terms of increased receipts of tax revenue. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of India, Finance Department of the state, businessmen and people of the state for understanding and supporting the most transformative tax reform in the entire world. Government of Tripura thanks our honorable Prime Minister for this bold vision which has united entire country as one for taxation purpose.

112. Mr. Speaker Sir, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is an inspiration to the country. This Government is motivated by the able leadership of our Prime Minister who is working tirelessly for the country. The State Government has taken several steps to implement flagship schemes of Government of India like Pradhan Mantri Mudra

Yojana (PMMY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and Stand Up India programmes to transform the lives of poor and for giving them a confident future. Due to the initiative of our Chief Minister, the target under various schemes have been achieved in the state. We propose to implement all central Government schemes more efficiently and thereby tap more resources to develop Tripura.

113. In Tripura there are 12 State Public Sector Enterprises. Apart from these Public Sector Enterprises, there are many Autonomous Institutions, Boards and Societies etc. Except a few all others are fully dependent on the State Government for salary of the staff, administrative cost and working capital. There is a need to review the functioning of these Public Sector Enterprises to recommend steps for appropriate action. The Government is proposing to appoint a professional institution to review their functioning for their sustainability and to suggest a way forward.

114. Besides the e-challan, e-stamp, e-gazette initiatives and new recruitment policy, the PWD Department has adopted e-procurement in all projects/ works irrespective of the cost from June 01, 2018. To facilitate the process up to the field level offices, a number of training programmes are being organized. This will benefit all sections of enlisted contractors and all agencies including those from outside the State as all can compete in the hassle free bidding process. This will improve transparency, accountability and overall governance.

115. The Government is exploring the proposal to merge Tripura Agriculture & Land Development Bank Ltd with Tripura State Cooperative Bank for better synergy. It has been noticed that the Tripura Agriculture & Land Development Bank Ltd. has shifted its focus from the primary sector to secondary sector. The recovery rate is very poor and administrative cost is very high. There is hardly any scope for revival of this bank. It is proposed to merge the bank with State Co-operative Bank so that wasteful expenditure could be avoided.

116. The Government is committed to mobilize more resources so that faster development could be undertaken in the state without burdening poor people. We have initiated several steps to harness untapped potential of the state in areas like tourism, agriculture, horticulture, Bamboo, skill development, Information Technology to accelerate growth, create new jobs and lift poor out of poverty. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, through the effective utilisation of JAM- Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile Trinity, the Central Government has ensured timely delivery of government services to millions of citizens across the country which has helped in creating a culture of 'sushasan' in the country. Our Government is committed to optimizing these resources for delivery of 'sushasan' in the state of Tripura.

117. Mr. Speaker Sir, with the twin objective of generating additional resources and promotion of tourism, the Government is proposing to rationalize excise duties and take the benefit of potential in the State. Due to the proposed measures, the Government is expecting to generate Rs 52.6 crores in a year.

118. Tripura has one of the lowest tax regimes on petrol, diesel and gas in the country. The lower prices in our state are causing price distortion as compared to our neighboring states and this loophole is being blatantly misused by miscreants in the border areas of the state. Moreover, the attitude of the past Governments has ensured that bonafide petrol and diesel buyers have to suffer severe inconveniences due to the blatant black-marketing and other such illicit activities in the state. The Mai-Baap culture and the beg-thy-Center approach of the past Government shall need to make way for efforts towards strengthening our economy and raising our own resources for the development of the state. Hence, it is proposed to increase the sales tax on petrol by 2% and levy cess on turnover @ 2% and increase of sales tax on diesel by 1% and levy cess on turnover @ 2% and increase sales tax on gas by 1% and levy cess on turnover by @2%. The Government is expecting Rs 40.84 crores per year with these increases.

119. Increase on gas will have an impact of Rs 4.4 on CNG per household per month, petrol may increase by Rs 1.15 and diesel may increase by 55 paise per litre. Speaker Sir, there is no point keeping our eyes closed and let the world around us progress faster making effective utilisation of its resources. These resources shall be used in the best interests of the people of the state and our Government stands committed to utilising cess for road development in the state.

120. The Government is proposing to revise road taxes for most categories of motor vehicles. The road tax on 2 wheelers, 4 wheelers, contract carriage, stage carriage, goods vehicles and other vehicles shall be increased. However, there shall be no increase for passenger

3 wheelers which cater to the transport needs of common citizen. The Government has also decided that in future road permits for 3 wheelers shall be issued to only those who own and drive these vehicles and not to big businessmen owners. It is expected that with these measures the Government will earn Rs. 30.32 crores per year. I am pleased to announce that all electric vehicles will be exempted from payment of road tax to encourage carbon free transport sector in the state and to express our strong support to develop clean energy solutions in the state.

121. Speaker sir, we must be very clear about priorities while serving the people of the state. The ideology infested 'utopian' worldview of the previous dispensation led to incredulous mismanagement of the State Finances and trampled the dreams and aspirations of the common men and women of Tripura. We are committed to not imposing any frivolous or unnecessary tax burden on the people of the state. We shall not remain blind-folded to the realities of our times and make merry in our own dystopian world as was the case with our past Governments. I am sure that people of my beloved State will understand that the resources raised from these measures shall be used for their holistic development and I am sure they will extend their wholehearted support for these measures for their ultimate good.

122. Tax base of Tripura is very limited and it may not be possible to impose taxes on common people of Tripura. Therefore, the Government has thought of creating Tripura Infrastructure and Investment Fund Board to raise resources from the private sector for undertaking large scale infrastructure development projects. We hope that with the creation of the Fund, the Government will be able to

take up durable high value infrastructure assets which may not be possible otherwise.

123. Mr Speaker Sir, the state Government and PSUs own properties including land, buildings and other assets. To ensure that Government assets are properly identified and monetized, it is proposed to set up an Asset Management Cell in the Finance Department.

124. The State Government has 161331 employees and 56441 pensioners as on 31st December 2016. Pensions are paid by the Government. However, as we are aware, Government of India has introduced New Pension Scheme from 2004. Several states have adopted the New Pension Scheme for their employees. However, it was not introduced for the state Government employees except for All India Services officers. We propose to introduce New Pension Scheme prospectively for all the employees of the State Government to reduce pension burden which is increasing exponentially in the recent years. We hope that with the introduction of New Pension Scheme, pension liabilities could be contained and more resources could be spared for development of the state.

125. The government has decided to increase the pension for retired journalists from to Rs.10000 per month. This will greatly benefit the retired journalists who do not have any other source of income after retiring from jobs.

126. Mr. Speaker Sir, people of Tripura are aware that the 'Recruitment Policy' followed in the past was opaque, without transparency which reeked of nepotism and favoritism. The Government is determined to recruit staff based on merit, transparently and without any favoritism

or ideological considerations. Accordingly, the Government has approved a new recruitment policy for the state government. We hope that new 'Recruitment Policy' will attract the best talent available in the state for effective delivery of public services to the people.

127. The State Government decided to do away with interview for most Class-III posts to ensure best and talented are selected for Government services through written tests, skills and soft skills but without any extraneous considerations. It is also proposed to constitute a Recruitment Board to recruit employees for the state government other than those selected through the State Public Service Commission.

128. To improve the work culture for transforming Tripura, the Government requires efficient, empowered and effective civil services and clear, monitorable outcomes and work plan. Therefore, the Government will set annual work plans for each Department, Offices and officers which could be monitored for delivery, outcomes at the end of each year. The review will be used to assess the performance of the departments and individual officers. The Government would like to encourage honest and efficient performance and instill a spirit of competition among the officers and a way to recognize such officers in the government. Therefore, it is proposed to institute Chief Ministers' Civil Service Award to be given annually to recognize outstanding work done by the civil servants in the state. The selected officers will be felicitated by the Chief Minister for the work done for the development of Tripura and to encourage others for better performance.

129. Employees of the State Government have been deprived of their legitimate dues for many years by the previous Left Front

Government and our government is committed to correct this anomaly at the earliest. With a view to implement 7th Central Pay Commission for employees of the state government, the Government has constituted an Expert Committee with Mr. P. P. Varma, Retired IAS, as Chairman. The Expert Committee has received representations from the employees organizations and had met them at Agartala. The Expert Committee is now considering the demands and representations of the employees and we hope that they will submit the report shortly to the government. Once the report is submitted, the Government will take all the required measures to implement the recommendations at the earliest. In anticipation of these recommendations, the Government has made necessary budgetary provisions to meet the cost of 7th CPC recommendations. I take this opportunity to thank the Government of India for their whole-hearted support to the State Government by providing required additional financial resources and most importantly, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley for their strong support and sanction of required funds.

130. Mr. Speaker Sir, while the Government is committed to implement the 7th CPC benefits to the employees of the State Government, it is also the responsibility of the employees to provide better quality services and increased productivity to meet aspirations and demands of the population. The employees have to be punctual, efficient, honest, productive and solution providers.. Employees should consider working for the Government as a privilege and honour; therefore, strive to give their best to serve the people.

131. To promote more transparency and probity, the government has issued Manuals on Procurement for Goods, Services and

Consultancies. With these Manuals, procurement in the government will be faster, transparent and cost effective.

132. Now, I would like to highlight the Receipts and Expenditure projected in Budget Estimates of 2018-19. The collection of State's Own Tax Revenue is projected at Rs. 1709.00 Cr in Budget Estimates of 2018-19 with a growth rate of 16.42% over the Revised Estimates of 2017-18. The collection of State's Non Tax Revenue is projected at Rs. 281.36 Cr in BE 2018-19 with a growth rate of 40.68% over Revised Estimate of 2017-18. The Receipts from share of Central taxes have been projected at Rs.5747.00 Cr in Budget Estimates with an increase of 36.83% over the Revised Estimates of 2017-18.

133. State is expected to get Rs. 1742.00 Cr under Revenue Deficit Grant during 2018 -19.

134. The overall Total Receipts excluding adjustment of Opening Balance in Budget Estimate 2018-19 will be Rs. 16008.21 Cr. The gross borrowing is projected at Rs. 1993.00 Cr in Budget Estimates which includes Open Market Borrowing of Rs.1390.00 Cr and negotiated loan of Rs.150.00 Cr.

135. The Total Expenditure under Budget Estimates 2018-19 is projected at Rs. 16387.21 Cr with a growth of 14.62% over the Revised Estimates of 2017-18. This includes Revenue Expenditure of Rs. 13108.97 Cr and Capital Expenditure of Rs. 3278.24 Cr. This budget is different from the earlier practice of presentation and accounting system. We have adopted the Government of India system of Revenue and Capital Accounts and classification of Plan and Non Plan has been removed for better classification of accounts and expenditure.

The position in brief is:			(Rupees in Crore)
(A)	Revenue Account		
	1.	Receipts	14013.21
	2.	Expenditure	13108.97
	3.	Surplus (A1 – A2)	904.24
(B)	Capital Account		
	1.	Receipts from loans & others (including Public Account & OB)	2374.00
	2.	Disbursements	3278.24
	3.	Deficit (B1 – B2)	(-) 904.24
(C)	Total Receipts: (A1)+(B1)		16387.21
(D)	Total Expenditure: (A2)+(B2)		16387.21
Budget Deficit (C – D)			0.00

136. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, 2022 is a very important year for both the state of Tripura and for India. 2022 shall mark 50 years of the State Formation and 75 years of independent India. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji has outlined his Vision for New India for 2022 and has been championing several initiatives to achieve his vision. Our Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb's vision of Transforming Tripura aims towards building a Swarnim Tripura. Our Government is committed towards fulfilling his vision of Transforming Tripura.

137. The Hon'ble Members will appreciate the fact that despite inheriting serious financial conditions, the new Government has tried to balance the aspirations of the people, employees and others with the challenges of development requirements by way of accessing

additional financial resources from the Government of India, rationalizing various tax structures and minimizing wasteful expenditure.

138. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with these words, I commend the Budget Proposals for 2018-19 for consideration and approval of this August House.