



BUDGET SPEECH

2015-16

By

Shri Bhanulal Saha
FINANCE MINISTER

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA

11th February 2015

Mr. Speaker Sir,

With your kind permission, I rise to present the Budget for the year 2015-16.

2. Our Country has been facing a process of intensified globalization and economic liberalization disregarding the interests of the common people. In the name of fiscal consolidation, all the Social Sector Schemes, like Food Security Act, MGNREGA, National Health Mission, etc. have been drastically curtailed in the last few months. This reduction in expenditure under social sector in the country would impose heavy burden on the common masses. The latest ordinance on land acquisition will particularly affect the farming community and benefit the rich corporates and MNCs.

3. The policy of economic liberalization nurtured by the Union Government is being given further boost through opening up of Insurance sector and facilitating entry of foreign investors and private foreign institutions in the insurance sector, thereby making the country's economy more vulnerable. The disinvestment programme has been pursuing in a vigorous manner and efforts are being made to sell off our jewels – the profit-making Central PSUs – at throw away prices. The Central Government is also talking about privatizing airports, ports and other infrastructural assets of the country. The recent practice of promulgation of Ordinances bypassing the Parliament is most undemocratic step of the Central Government.

4. The Central Government continues to resort to anti-people measure like stopping new recruitment, abolition of vacant posts and reduction of the opportunities of employment in Government through

outsourcing. Tremendous pressure is exerted on the State Government to pursue the same policy by imposing different conditionalities while transferring funds under various Schemes/ Projects. The Left Front Government has refused to bow down to this pressure and our Policy in this regard has been to expand the employment opportunities in Government sector.

5. The State Government is of the opinion that implementation of alternative economic policies, including increasing purchasing capacity of the common people and strengthening of the public sector, will insulate the country from global economic adversities. At the same time, strengthening and universalisation of the public distribution system is the need of the hour to control price rise to an extent.

6. The constitution of NITI Aayog to replace the Planning Commission is a regressive step which will further push the country into a market-driven economy and privatization. The disappearance of the Planning Commission would mean what used to be plan transfers would now be doled out through the finance ministry, which would entail both a possible reduction in the total magnitude of transfers, and a definite increase in the Centre's control over States' plans. Whatever role the Planning Commission had to allocate resources for the public sector and deploying public investment keeping in mind the regional disparities appears to have now ended. Through the institution of NITI Aayog, the Centre would force states to go in for public-private partnerships and to vie with one another to attract private capital to their territories, which would lead to the centralisation of economic powers on one hand, and would deprive the Special Category States like Tripura of resources for economic development.

7. Hon'ble Members are aware that the State has faced unprecedented financial difficulties due to unfavourable award of the 13th Finance Commission on account of under estimation of Salary and Pension liabilities of the State. The 14th Finance Commission which was constituted by the Government of India for recommending devolution of funds for the five year period from 2015-16, visited the State in November, 2013. The State Government had submitted its Memorandum highlighting the concerns of the State including provision of adequate funds on account of salary, pension and other liabilities, besides sharing of Tax Revenues of the Centre and grant of deficit gap grant. The 14th Finance Commission has submitted its report to the Union Government in December, 2014 but the Report is yet to be accepted by the Union Government. At this critical juncture, though resources are not fully known to the state government, the current trend of resource allocation and expenditure has been followed to prepare the present budget.

8. The State Government has enacted the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2005 and has consistently been achieving the targets under the FRBM Act during the 13th Finance Commission award period.

9. The Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of the banks in Tripura State has been continued to be very low. The CD Ratio upto the end of September, 2014 stands at 40% as against 75.9% at national level though it has improved over corresponding period of last year.

10. It has been a continuous endeavour of the State Government to protect the interests of the depositors in the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Chit Funds through awareness generation,

implementation of the Tripura Protection of Interest of Depositors (In Financial Establishment) Act, 2000 through field machinery. The State Government is fully committed to take all possible steps to protect the interests of the investors and the same has been reflected in the enhanced collection in small savings.

11. As Hon'ble Members are aware, the State Government has filled up a few thousand vacant posts despite its meager resources. For providing self-employment, State Government has taken number of effective steps like increased subsidy for Swavalamban, utilization of PDF fund for this purpose and extending soft loan to individuals belong to SC, ST, Minorities and OBC through the respective Corporations.

12. The State Government has introduced the gender budget in the interest of women and girls on the state since financial year 2005-06. Eighteen Departments have been included under Gender Budget and Rs.438.99 crore has been provided for the purpose as mentioned in the budget at a glance. Self Employment opportunities were provided to women by forming Self-Help Groups. Fifty percent seats have been reserved for women in the Local Bodies. I urge the Central Government to enact the Women Reservation Bill for giving one third reservations for women in the State Legislative Assembly and the Parliament.

13. The State Government took special initiative for planned development of Agriculture. Adoption of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method of paddy cultivation, increase in fertilizer use (i.e. 60Kg per ha) and adoption of Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) at optimum level of 33% has led to an average 18-25% more yield in paddy cultivation.

14. A "Road Map for Horticulture Development (2013-17)" has been chalked out to increase the production of horticultural crops to about

23.32 lakh MT by the end of 12th Five Year Plan. During the current financial year, 2910 ha & 2570 ha additional area have been brought under cultivation with different fruit crops and vegetable crops respectively and 70.00 Lakh quality planting materials have been produced, in addition to production of 59.00 Lakh planting materials in private nurseries. 8500 ha area has been brought under Potato coverage during this year. Besides, 100 ha area has been brought under cultivation by TPS- tuberlet with a target of 1000 MT tuberlet production.

15. To achieve self sufficiency in animal origin food, that is, milk, meat and egg, various interventions such as Artificial insemination, heifer rearing scheme, induction of improved Indian & crossbred cows/heifers, block level brooder houses, backyard poultry, pig breeding unit under FRA etc. have been adopted. Annual production target for the year 2015-16 in milk, meat and egg sector is targeted to be 1,54,097 MT, 37,267.86 MT & 23.32 crores respectively with per capita availability of 108.47 gm milk per day, 9.56 kg meat per year and 60 nos. egg per year.

16. The State Government has been consistently endeavoring to enhance the fish production in the state for minimizing the gap between present demand and supply of fish from local production. As a result, the production of fish is expected to cross 66,000 tonnes with per capita availability of 18 kg fish from local production at the end of fiscal 2014-15. For the next year 2015-16, the production of fish is targetted to grow to 71,000 tonnes with per capita availability of fish @ 19 kg.

17. With an objective to extend credit facilities to the farming fraternity, 172 nos. of LAMPS/PACS have started credit business across

the State. As of now, 54 LAMPS/PACS have opened banking counters enabling members to mobilize deposits and credit facilities for meeting varied needs of the members.

18. Afforestation has been a major and important activity of the Department during FY 2014-15 and roughly 19,100 ha of forestry plantation was raised by the State Government. An important initiative of the State Government was for the restoration of vegetative cover on barren hill-tops. The State Government has also taken up a special drive to treat the catchment area of Howrah River with a view to check siltation and maintain the river flow as pilot project.

19. The State Government played pivotal role in granting of Forest Rights, to the Forest Dwellers. One major challenge before the State Government is to assist the patta holders for sustainable utilization of RFR land. Agro-forestry raised in patta land with bamboo mixed with Agri-horti crops namely turmeric, pineapple, mango(amprapalli) etc. is going to generate substantial income to the tribal patta holders.

20. Providing assured food security to the citizens is fundamental responsibility of the Government. In order to provide food security to the citizens of the state especially the under-privileged sections, the State Scheme for Distribution of subsidized rice for BPL is continued in the year 2014-15. Distribution of APL rice at BPL price for 1.61 lakh Adhoc BPL families will continue till March, 2015. State Subsidy for procurement of sugar is Rs.7.48 crore for the year 2014-15. Tripura is the only state of North Eastern Region which has successfully implemented the new sugar distribution scheme under PDS. State Government has already digitized 8.44 lakh ration cards.

21. The State has launched Direct Cash Subsidy Scheme w.e.f. October, 2014 to provide subsidy to Consumers in lieu of supply of Mustard Oil and Masur Dal @ Rs.15/- and Rs.20/- respectively per ration card per month.

22. The State Government has given top most priority to connect all the remaining habitations in the state. So far, out of total 8132 habitations, 6714 habitations have been connected with fair weather roads. Under State Plan, during the year of 2014-15 upto November, 2014, Metalling and Carpeting of 140 KM, 15 RCC bridges and about 9 Box/slab culverts was completed. During the year 2015-16, it has been targetted to improve 200 KM Roads under State Plan and in addition 140 KM road improvement will be done under 60% renewal of Bharat Nirman. Target for completion of 35 Permanent Bridges and taking up new 10 Bridges is also kept for 2015-16.

23. A length of 104 KM of NH-44 in Churaibari-Agartala portion has been taken over by PWD (R&B) and maintenance work is in progress. BRO has been requested to complete works as per existing sanction and thereafter, PWD(R&B) will take over the remaining 94 KM stretch of Churaibari-Agartala section. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India will directly develop the stretch for Agartala-Sabroom Section. The Ministry has declared 133 KM portion of the Kukital-Sabroom stretch as NH and the State Government will continue its demand to declare the entire portion of Kukital-Sabroom road as National Highway.

24. The total cultivable land in the State is 2,55,241 ha. The State Govt. has drawn up an action plan for bringing 55% of the cultivable land i.e. 1,40,383 ha. under irrigation coverage. An area of 1,12,901 ha.

has been brought under irrigation coverage up to 15th December, 2014 by concerted actions of PWD(WR), RDD, Agriculture, Forest departments and TTAADC. For the financial year 2015-16, the State Government has drawn up action plan to take up new 9 Storage Project, 1 Diversion, 12 L.I., 45 DTW schemes. Emphasis will be given to complete the remaining works of Gumti and Manu irrigation projects. Expected new irrigation coverage during the FY 2015-16 is 4527 ha.

25. In flood management sector, the Department manages operation & maintenance of 140 Km of embankment for protecting of 26500 ha. of land and anti-erosion works for a length of 87 Km for protecting river bank at towns, important habitations, and important agricultural lands. Action plan for the year 2015-16 has been drawn to take up 2.00 Km New Embankment, 10 km new Anti-erosion work and two drainage development works.

26. The State Government is working to enhance quality of life of the people by providing sustainable safe water & sanitation facilities and services along with promoting hygienic practices amongst the people. During the current financial year, 17 Surface Water Treatment Plants & 94 Deep Tube Wells have been sunk; 146 Deep Tube Wells and 427 Small Bore Deep Tube Wells have been commissioned; 669 Spot Sources have been created and 55 IRPs have been installed. So far, 4790 Schools & Madrassas out of 4800 Nos and 9648 AWCs out of 9911 have been covered with safe drinking water facilities. The remaining 14 no-covered habitations will also be covered by March, 2015 leaving no un-covered habitations in the State.

27. Action plan has been drawn up for the year 2015-16 for Sinking & Commissioning of 274 Deep Tube Wells & 970 Small Bore Tube

Wells, Construction of 150 Iron Removal Plants, Construction of 15 Surface Water Treatment Plants, Creation of 1734 Spot Sources, construction of 46 Rain Water Harvesting Structures and 38 Innovative schemes.

28. Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) is now renamed as Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM). During the current financial year, 13614 Individual Household Latrines have already been constructed. For improvement of sanitation at community level, construction of 75 units School Toilets and 757 units Anganwadi Toilets have also been completed. During the year 2015-16, 75000 Individual Household Latrines for APL and 150 Sanitary Complexes will be taken up.

29. The State Government has acquired 53.406 acres of jote land at a cost of Rs. 30.97 crores and handed over the land along with 18.59 acres of khas land i.e. 72 acres of land to Airport Authority of India (AAI) free of cost for construction of new terminus building and widening of the runway of Agartala Airport for development of the airport. The State Government is pursuing the matter with AAI so that construction works are taken up immediately.

30. City Bus Services are being operated with 70 buses connecting Agartala to places like Jirania, Bishalgarh, Mohanpur & nearby areas. Proposal for procurement of 100 new buses and construction of Bus depots at a cost of Rs. 33.76 crores has been submitted for sanction by the Government of India.

31. Construction of Inter-State Truck Terminus (ISTT) at Madhavbari, Jirania and Inter-State Bus Terminus (ISBT) in Dharmanagar have been completed and opened for public use. Construction of Motor Stands at Sonamura and Kanchanpur have been completed and opened for public

use. New District Transport Offices have been opened in the new districts, namely, Khowai, Siphahijala and South Tripura.

32. With the vision to convert Tripura into the preferred destination for industrial and trade activities, the Government continues to play the role of a catalyst for tapping opportunities in the industries and trade sector; across micro, small-scale, medium and large scale units; and for internal and international trade and commerce.

33. Significant progress has been made in developing the industrial infrastructure in the form of Industrial Growth Centre, Export Promotion Industrial Park, Industrial Estates, Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres, Food Park, Rubber Park, Bamboo Park etc. At present, there are eight Land Custom Stations throughout the state including one Integrated Check Post at Agartala. The Srinagar Border Haat at South Tripura is already functional. 4 (four) new ITIs are being set up at Kamalpur, Bishramganj, Teliamura and LT Valley.

34. At present, there are 79 clusters in Tripura (Handloom-42, Handicrafts 19 and Sericulture-18) & the products are being marketed through the PURBASHA and Handloom Sales Counters. The 880 weavers have been trained provided with looms & accessories, Margin Money & work-shed etc. for their self-sufficiency under the Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS).

35. The maximum power demand of the State during FY 2014-15 was 266MW which was recorded during last festive season. Total effective generating capacity of the state is 106 MW and out of this generation, 20 MW is earmarked for Manipur and Mizoram. Around 100 MW is drawn from Central Sector Power Stations to meet the peak demand.

Second Unit of Palatana of capacity 363.3 MW is likely to start commercial operation by end of Feb, 2015.

36. TSECL has signed MoU with NEEPCO on 12th December, 2014 for formation of Generation Company with equity ratio of 90:10 between Govt. of Tripura and NEEPCO for conversion of existing open cycle to combined cycle at Baramura and Rukhia for capacity addition of 55 MW and renovation and revival of Gumti Hydel Electric Project.

37. At present, number of consumers in the state is about 6.64 lakhs. Out of this, almost all the consumers are covered under computerized energy billing system. For electrification of villages in Tripura under 12th Plan, eight numbers of RGGVY schemes in all the Districts of project value 316.22 Cr. has been sanctioned for providing access to electricity for all households by Ministry of Power, Govt. of India. Under R-APDRP scheme, TSECL has already taken up 16 projects to enable all the consumers to avail the facility of meter reading collection and distribution through advanced system of information technology. Meanwhile, 15 towns have already been covered with IT enabled MBC System.

38. Welfare of Scheduled Tribes has always been topmost priority of the State Government. Several initiatives have been taken for the socio-economic, cultural and educational development of the tribals during 2014-15. Top priority had been accorded for educational development of the Scheduled Tribe children and to reduce Dropout Ratio from primary to Madhyamik levels. During 2014-15 (up to November, 2014), 1,23,714 ST students were provided assistance under various schemes like Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship, Boarding House Stipend, Supply of Free Text Books, Merit Awards etc.

39. Tripura is one of the very few States which has successfully implemented Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. 1,22,506 forest dwellers (individual claims) have been vested with forest rights involving 1,74,793.37 hectares of land. Necessary steps have been taken for providing economic benefits to forest dwellers for gainful utilization of land vested under the Act.

40. Special package for socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes is focused on various development works, which will be taken up in SC dominated areas for infrastructure development such as Roads, Drinking Water, Power, Irrigation and Multi Purpose Community Hall etc. Individual benefits are also to be provided to deserving SC BPL families in SC dominated areas such as allotment of Land and house for landless/Homeless SCs, provision of Training Facility & Loan to SCs, market stall for SC Youths, income generating Scheme for SC, Scholarship for SC students and Pre-examination Coaching for SC students. During the current year, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarships have been provided to 32,500 and 24,932 students respectively.

41. Special Package for socio economic development of OBCs includes assistance with allotment of land, providing with House, drinking water, power, income generation programme and educational development. During 2014-15, 70,850 students have been provided with Pre-Matric Scholarship (50:50 scheme) and Vocational Training whenever necessary.

42. The State Government is working with a mandate to ensure overall development of the Minorities in Tripura. During current

financial year, 27,603 minority students were covered under stipend and Scholarship Schemes. The State Government sponsored 148 students in GNM, B.Sc. Nursing, Engineering and paramedical courses during current financial year. Financial assistance @ Rs.10,000/- each have been provided to 1500 Minority families during 2014-15 for starting small business under Group Village Scheme & 20 families have been provided financial assistance for construction of house etc. @ Rs.50,000/- each under Settlement Scheme. Development & protection of Wakf properties are also a primary sector of minority Welfare Deptt. During this year upto Nov, 2014, Job-oriented vocational training for 540 unemployed youths was arranged.

43. The State Government attaches high priority to ensure welfare of children, women, destitute, physically challenged persons and senior citizens. The Tripura Commission for Child Rights has been constituted and Juvenile Justice Fund has been created. Allocation of National Old Age Pension for above 80 age group has been reduced by Central Government for about 8000 beneficiaries. The State Government has taken the burden of payment of pension to all such beneficiaries apart from payment of social pensions under different state run pension schemes.

44. During the year 2015-16, 3,22,750 beneficiaries under 23 different schemes would be covered. Under Incentive to Girl Child the beneficiaries would be increased from 27340 to 42340. To provide immediate response to the Women affected by Violence, 4 Nirbhaya Centres in erstwhile 4 Districts will be set up during 2015-16 for providing referral services to hospital, basic first aid, assisting in lodging FIR, psycho-Social support, legal counseling through

empanelled lawyers, Video conferencing facility to facilitate police proceedings and temporary shelter.

45. The Government has made efforts to provide minimum educational infrastructure at primary and secondary levels. 1143 nos. out-of-school children were enrolled, free text books provided to 4,80,450 students reading in the classes I-VIII, free text books provided to 44,849 BPL students reading in the classes IX-XII. 20,000 girl students reading in class-IX having family income not exceeding Rs.1,25,000/- per annum were listed for providing Bi-cycles at free of cost. 70,425 adult learners in the age group of 15 years & above got enrolled at standard III level in 4350 learning centres under Continuing Education programme and 25 skill development centres opened throughout the state for enhancing the earning skills of 58,792 neo-literates.

46. During 2015-16, it is proposed to open 5 new JB Schools, upgrade 5 SB schools to High as well as 5 High schools to HS, upgrade infrastructure of 50 Government & Government aided High & HS schools, maintenance of 100 schools and 150 hostels, construct Kitchen Shed for 129 Govt. aided schools, up-grade infrastructure for 30 High & HS Schools, replace 5 year old Kitchen Devices in 330 units, provide furniture to 200 schools, provide furniture to all the SPQEM & GIA Madrassas. Free text books will be provided to 4,90,210 students of classes I-VIII, supply of free text books to 41,301 (approximate) BPL students for the classes IX & X, financial Assistance for text books to 54,260 BPL students of classes XI & XII, complete continuing Education Programme at standard-IV level for 30,000 (approx) successful learners.

47. The State Government is going to set up a new State University at MBB College Campus. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) increased from 7.24% in 2007 to nearly 15% in 2014. The State Government is making all out efforts to achieve more than 20% GER by 2020. Semester system has been introduced in General Degree colleges from 2014-15 to provide quality education to the students. IASE and Govt. Law College have been shifted to newly constructed buildings. North Tripura District Polytechnic, Bagbassa, Dharmanagar has been operationalized.

48. Games & Sports and Youth Activities are one of the leading agenda of the State Government. In spite of resource crunch, the State Government is making all out efforts towards promotion of Sports and broad based sports Infrastructure in order to extend outreach and coverage to all the rural areas of the State as well as provided facilities of sports for all. During the year 2014-15, infrastructure has been created by the Youth Affairs & Sports Department viz. up-gradation of Netaji Subhas Regional Coaching Centre (NSRCC) including construction of Indoor and Gymnasium Hall, construction of 4 storied Building for different activities like Judo, Weightlifting, Yoga, Table Tennis etc, construction of District Sports Complexes at Kailashahar, Udaipur and Ambassa respectively, 2nd Tripura Sports School at Panisagar, North Tripura, construction of Academic Building with Indoor Hall & Women Hostel at RCPE, Panisagar and construction of Shahid Bhagat Yuba Awaas (350 bedded) at Khejurbagan, Agartala.

49. Providing curative as well as preventive health care services to the people of the State is one of the top priorities of the State Government. More than 90% people of the State are taking Health Care Services from the Government Health Institutions.

50. As a part of the Action Plan during 2015-16, construction of new six Sub-divisional Hospitals at Panisagar, Kumarghat, Jirania, Mohanpur, Jampuijala and Karbook is proposed. The State Government is committed to set up Health Sub-Centres in each Gram Panchayat/ADC Village where no health facilities exist. Against the requirement of 1054 Sub-Centres, the State Government has already established 1015 Sub-Centres. At present, there are 6 Blood Banks in the State. 5 new Blood Banks proposed to be started. 2 Blood component Separation Units are proposed in 2 existing Blood Bank at IGM Hospital, Agartala and District Hospital Udaipur, Gomati District. In the State, IMR is 26 as per Sample Registration Survey (SRS), 2014 compared to 40 in India. The birth rate, death rate and the natural growth rate are 13.7, 4.7 & 9.0 respectively compared to 21.4, 7.0 & 14.4 respectively in India. There is a remarkable achievement in Institutional delivery which is now 87% of total deliveries up to October, 2014.

51. General Elections to the three-tier Panchayati raj bodies have been successfully completed in the State. Various development activities have been done with 13th Finance Commission Grant, namely, extension of 24,345 meter Pipe line for Drinking Water, creation of 213 Drinking Water Sources and maintenance of existing drinking water sources and other community assets. As a part of Devolution Index under Rajib Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA), Tripura has been awarded Rs.1.50 crore for holding 1st rank in North Eastern Region.

52. Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation have remained major areas of concern and thrust for the State Government. MGNREGA is

being earnestly implemented in all the Districts. Tripura ranked first with an average mandays generation of 88 in 2013-14 while national average was 42. Unakoti district was awarded the “District Level Award for High level of Employment Generation” by the Ministry of RD during FY 2013-14. Ministry of Rural Development had approved labour budget of Rs.1406.94 crore for 2014-15 for Tripura. Against this, it has been informed that only Rs.652 crore will be made available under MGNREGA in the current year, which is much less than last year’s release of Rs.943.66 crore by the Ministry of Rural Development. This drastic reduction in allocation under MGNREGA has put the rural economy of Tripura under severe strain. Panchayati Raj Institutions are unable to take up works as per approved labour budget.

53. The objective of the State Government in urban development sector is to make every settlement a safe, healthy and sustainable place in which every family has adequate shelter, pure drinking water, street lights, sanitation, drainage, solid wastes management facility, access to roads, housing for poor and employment to urban youths. State Government had upgraded the Agartala Municipal Council into Agartala Municipal Corporation and 10 Nagar Panchayats namely Mohanpur, Bishalgarh, Melagarh, Khowai, Teliamura, Udaipur, Belonia, Ambassa, Kailashahar and Dharmanagar into Municipal Council as per provision of Fifth Amendment of Tripura Municipal Act, 1994.

54. Under Tripura Urban Employment Programme (TUEP), a State Government funded programme, average 35 mandays have been generated upto December, 2014. The National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) will be implemented from the current year in Tripura in seven ULBs. 2,000 houses under Tripura State Government Housing Scheme

are targeted for the year 2014-15 out of which 900 have been already completed. Construction of 2,676 dwelling houses will be taken up in 2014-15 under Rajiv Awaas Yojana.

55. Tourism is emerging as a vibrant sector in the State of Tripura. Infrastructure and facilities in the tourist destinations have improved substantially. Tourist flow, both domestic and foreign and earning of revenue have also registered increasing trend. Tripura Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. is taking initiative for development and promotion of Ecotourism in the State by taking consultation and technical guidance from Ecotourism Society of India, New Delhi.

56. The State Government is committed to promote science and technology and provide its citizens a clean environment. With this objective, the State Government has taken up various programmes during current financial year in addition to the on-going works. 56 SPV Power Plants of 1 kw to 10 kw have been installed in different Primary Health Centres to reduce the burden of electricity bills. 2,730 families have been provided with Solar Home Lighting Systems in 23 Remote Villages under Village Electrification Programme.

57. To reduce use of chemical inputs in agriculture and produce safer food, 110 "Biotech Kits" have been distributed to the 110 marginal farmers in the state under Biotechnology programme. 95 ha. tissue cultured Sabri banana and 20 ha. Medicinal and Vegetable plantation have been raised for marginal farmers under different R.D. Blocks of the state through Biotechnology initiatives.

58. To stop plastic pollution, storing, use and carrying of all plastic carry bags is completely banned in the state. Regular raids by the Authorized Officers against use of plastic carry bags are going on. It has

been proposed to install 400 Biogas Plants in 4(four) districts and 60 Smokeless Chullahs for different families and community in the state.

59. Under National e-Governance plan (NeGP), 145 Common Service Centers (CSCs) have been established across the State which is catering to various G2C services to citizens at their locality. For Network Connectivity, State Wide Area Network (SWAN) has already been established with 68 Points of Presence (PoPs) which are located across the state. Tripura is the 6th state in the country and first state in the North-East to implement SWAN. Agartala City Area Network (ACAN) has been set up to provide 1 Gbps optical fiber connectivity at 23 offices in Agartala.

60. Programme on Career guidance and motivational for new generation has been organised by the State Government in different schools and colleges. Presently, there are 37 (thirty Seven) Coaching Centers through out the State. In 2015-16, 70(seventy) Career Counselling Programme will be conducted in various schools / colleges, 45(forty five) Joint Entrance Coaching Centers will be set up in different HS level schools, 8(eight) Coaching Centers will be set up at eight District Head quarters, 10(ten) Career Exhibitions will be organized.

61. During the year 2014-15 from April, 2014 to October, 2014, 283.76 acres of Government khas land has been allotted in favour of 2587 BPL families, 93 Administrative-cum-Health Camps have been organised at various places. Computerization of more that 11,82,000 khatians of the State through Data entry has been completed under National Land Records And Modernization Programme (NLRMP) and legal sanctity is provided. Issue of computerized RoRs has been ensured in various CLR Centres and at Directorate of Land Records and

Settlement. Mutation cases are incorporated now through computer based software and application for mutation can be submitted online. 5384 C.S. maps have been digitized for the first phase and uploaded in the website. Copies of computerized maps and Bhunaksha are now supplied to the Citizens on demand. 15 Sub Registry Offices are under online Registration system and are integrated with CLR database through interconnectivity. 2,08,265 copies of RoR have been supplied to the citizens so far as per their demand.

62. Procurement of 14 types of critical equipments for disaster managements have been completed during the year. These equipments would be supplied to all 23 Sub-divisions, 12 Tripura State Rifles Battalions and Central Training Institute-Gokulnagar. The State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) is functioning round the clock and has dynamic daily situation reporting system.

63. The overall law and order situation in Tripura is peaceful. Prayaas beat meetings are actively conducted to bridge the coordination gap between police and common man. During 2014-15, 4495 Prayaas meeting have been organized by the Tripura Police all over the state where inputs have been shared between police and public on the prevention of crime against women, road traffic accident, effective utilization of women helpline, awareness regarding banking fraud etc. Vigilance is being maintained in the state to curb the fraudulent Non-Banking Financial Institutions and FICN (Fake Indian Currency Notes) etc. A toll free Woman Help Line has been established to receive distress calls from victims of crime against women or from anybody who has information about crime against women.

64. Two new Sub Jails each having 135 accommodation capacity (Male-110, Female-25) at Longtharai Valley and Gandacherra have already been inaugurated. Emphasis has been given for computerization of Prisoners records/data in all jails and Kendriya Sansodhanagar, Bishalgarh and introducing modern equipments in vocational units with the help of Industries and Commerce Department so as to train the prisoners to earn while they are in prison as well as to make their livelihood better after their release.

65. Total revenue collection during 2014-15 upto November, 2014 from Sales tax, Excise Duty, Professional Tax, Agricultural Income Tax, Luxury Tax and Entertainment Tax of Rs.465.74 Cr, 79.26 Cr, 27.66 Cr, 0.18 Cr, 0.61 Cr, 0.42 Cr. respectively with growth rates of 6.10%, 15.21%, 13.94%, 802%, 16.84%, -7.56% respectively over corresponding period of previous year.

66. 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. Through e-payment, approximately Rs. 192.60 crores have been realized during the year 2014-15. e-Services have been proved to be a transparent, user friendly, hassle-free means to the business community.

67. For the purpose of additional resource mobilization, rationalization of rates of different taxes and excise duties has been done. VAT on Tobacco and Tobacco products has been reduced from 35% to 25% w.e.f. 14th October, 2014, that of Spare parts of motor vehicles from 14.5% to 5% w.e.f. 14th October, 2014, Bed sheets, bed covers, pillow covers, blankets etc. from 14.5% to 5% w.e.f. 14th

October, 2014. As a result of revision of rates, it is expected additional revenue to the tune of Rs. 15.50 crores per annum would be generated. In order to encourage the aviation sector, Sales tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel has been reduced from 22% to 18% w.e.f. 27th November, 2014. The rate of Luxury Tax has been enhanced from 10% to 15% w.e.f. 17th October, 2014 vide "The Tripura Tax on Luxuries in Hotels and Lodging Houses (Second Amendment) Act, 2014". As a result of revision of rate, it is expected additional revenue to the tune of Rs. 0.50 crores per annum would be generated.

68. In the Revised Estimates of 2014-15, the State's Own Tax and Non-tax revenue has been projected at Rs. 1241.00 Cr and Rs. 222.90 Cr respectively. In the Budget Estimates of 2014-15, the targets for collection of State's Own Tax and Non-tax revenue were Rs. 1278.37 Cr and Rs. 290.00 Cr respectively.

69. Receipts from State's share of Central taxes has been kept at Rs. 1800.00 Cr in RE as against the BE of Rs. 1835.00 Cr for 2014-15. The total Receipts in RE has been kept at Rs. 11,903.45 Cr excluding adjustment of Opening Balance. The total expenditure in RE 2014-15 will be Rs. 12,399.45 Cr which includes Rs. 6242.18 Cr of Non Plan Expenditure and Rs. 6157.27 Cr of Plan Expenditure.

70. Now, I would like to highlight about the Receipts and Expenditure projected in Budget Estimates of 2015-16. The collection of State's Own Tax Revenue is projected at Rs. 1320.00 Cr in Budget Estimates with a growth rate of 6.37 % over the Revised Estimates of last year. The collection of State's Non Tax Revenue is projected at Rs. 310.00 Cr in BE 2015-16 with a growth rate of 39.08 % over Revised Estimate of last year. The Receipts from share of Central taxes have been projected

at Rs.1890.00 Cr in Budget Estimates with an increase of 5.00 % over the Revised Estimates of last Year.

71. State is expected to get Rs. 650.00 Cr under Non-Plan Gap Grant during 2015-16 as against the amount of Rs. 600.00 Cr to be received during 2014-15. The central transfers other than Share of Central Taxes under Non-Plan and grants under Plan heads have been anticipated at Rs. 9004.74 Cr in Budget Estimates 2015-16.

72. The overall Total Receipts excluding adjustment of Opening Balance in Budget Estimate 2015-16 will be Rs. 14259.74 Cr. The gross borrowing is projected at Rs. 1733.00 Cr in Budget Estimates which includes Open Market Borrowing of Rs. 910.00 Cr and negotiated loan of Rs. 210.00 Cr.

73. The Total Expenditure under Budget Estimates 2015-16 is projected at Rs. 14948.92 Cr with a growth of 20.56% over the Revised Estimates of 2014-15. This includes Non Plan Expenditure of Rs. 6562.07 Cr. An amount of Rs. 8386.85 Cr has been kept under the Plan with an increase of 36.21% over the Revised Estimates of 2014-15.

The position in brief is:		
(Rupees in Crore)		
(A)	Revenue Account	
	1. Receipts	12524.74
	2. Expenditure	9125.55

	3.	Surplus (A1 – A2)	3399.19
(B)	Capital Account		
	1.	Receipts from loans & others (including public account & OB)	2235.00
	2.	Disbursements	5823.37
	3.	Deficit (B1 – B2)	3588.37
(C)	Total Receipts: (A1)+(B1)		14759.74
(D)	Total Expenditure: (A2)+(B2)		14948.92
Budget Deficit (C – D)			189.18

74. The Hon'ble Members will appreciate the fact that despite slowing economy and difficult financial conditions of the State, I have tried to increase the allocations. There will be a Budget Deficit of Rs. 189.18 Cr which I intend to cover by means of better tax compliance, austerity measures and additional resource mobilization.

75. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with these words I commend the Budget Proposals for 2015-16 for consideration and approval of this August House.