



# **BUDGET SPEECH**

**2016-2017**

By

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FINANCE MINISTER**

**GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA**

*18th March, 2016*

Mr. Speaker Sir,

With your kind permission, I, on behalf of the Government, rise to present the Budget for the year 2016-17.

1. We express our deep sense of grief and pay homage to the security personnel, who lost their lives in defence of the unity and integrity of the country. We also pay homage to the peace loving innocent citizens who lost their lives in the disturbances caused by fundamentalist and secessionist forces.

2. The World has been observing a phase where imperialist intervention over the internal affairs of several countries have imbalanced the economic equilibrium of the regional as well as world output. Monopoly capitalistic markets have been dominating over the produce of the small and marginal farmers and entrepreneurs resulting in degradation of economies in several ways. Globally, the economic condition is in difficult and uncertain stage, followed by weak growth of world output. The situation is further aggravated by insecure financial markets and unstable exchange rates. Due to the recessionary trends the world over, the purchasing power of the people in general and the working class in particular has gone down drastically. The unemployment problem has increased phenomenally.

3. The same capitalistic new liberal economic policies being vigorously and aggressively pursued by the present Union Government are adversely affecting the economy of our country. At National level, during 2015-16, there is poor

growth in agriculture. The purchasing power of the people at large has gone down drastically. The savings rate has declined combined with investment rates. Indian currency has depreciated vis-à-vis the US dollar. There is a drastic fall in the level of India's export. Service sector growth in India is also declining during this financial year. Inflation has increased. There is no infrastructure development, thus affecting the economy as a whole.

4. The figures of Revised Estimates 2015-16 of Union Budget 2016-17 in respect of devolution of States' Share in Taxes shows decline over the Budget Estimates 2015-16 which suggests lower devolution of central taxes to the State Government. The position of net resources transferred to State is also less in Revised Estimates 2015-16 as compared to the same in Budget Estimates 2015-16. It is understood that the transfer of fund to the states will be grossly affected due to under estimation of the net resources transferred to the state in the Revised Estimates 2015-16.

5. The Union Budget 2016-17 has not risen up to the level of expectations of the people of the nation. It has pro-actively safeguarded the interests of the corporate sector. It lacked vision; is full of "hollow promises" and is focused more on foreign capital. The dead certainty is of a shrinking economy. Living standards of the people are bound to fall further. The Union Government has imposed certain cess and charges on the transport industry. This proposed imposition of cess and charges will be bound to affect the finances of many downtrodden sections. The indirect tax collections are proposed to be up by

Rs.20,600 Cr, while the direct tax proposals are down by Rs.1,060 Cr. Thus, the burden imposed on the commoners by way of "inflationary" indirect taxation will lead to non-expansion of domestic demand.

6. There is a negative growth of 2% in agriculture. While there is a 26% increase in farmers' suicide since the NDA assumed power, there is not a word on minimum support price for our Farmers. At a time when emphasis on marketing of farmers' produce at a profitable price through government intervention is necessary, the government has decided to open the market to FDI in respect of marketing of food products produced and manufactured in India. This will certainly increase the pressure on small and marginal farmers as it may become difficult to achieve price stability. Similarly, the allocation of resources in actual terms for Rural Development, Education and Health sectors has gone down, thus adversely affecting the poorer sections of the society.

7. While the general economic condition of the country is affecting the State of Tripura with its small size, remote location, poor infrastructure and poor resource base, Hon'ble Members are aware of the stringent conditions imposed on the state finances due to poor flow of fund from the Central Government and change in the sharing pattern of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The State is constantly facing challenges towards meeting up the gap funding of projects which were initiated under various schemes with funding from the Central Government in the earlier years but are facing severe problems due to paucity of funds after dismantling and replacement of Planning

Commission by the NITI Aayog. The report of Fourteenth Finance Commission has been tabled and accepted by the Central Government during 2015-16. As the rate of devolution of Central Share of taxes as proposed by the Fourteenth Finance Commission is not met, that further aggravated the economic condition of the state.

8. With the dismantling of the Planning Commission, the Centre - State discussions and discourses virtually have come to an end and thus, there is no forum for drawing attention of the state's problems with the Central Government.

9. The North Eastern States suffer from infrastructure bottlenecks and are largely dependent on funding under Special Central Assistance and Special Plan Assistance to meet its infrastructure requirements. I request the Central Government to consider restoration of these Block Grants to take care of the requirements under state specific development needs, revenue deficit, etc. Moreover, the allocation of funds to various States in the North Eastern Region by the Ministry of DoNER and North Eastern Council has to be equitable.

**10.** In spite of all these financial difficulties, the state government has been striving to continue its commitment towards the development and welfare of its human resources including promotion in quality of life of its people. I, on behalf of the State Government, **would like to say that this pro-people approach will continue braving all odds.**

11. **Road Connectivity:** The government is keen to extend road connectivity to all remaining habitations in the state. So far, out of total 8132 habitations, 6995 habitations have been connected with all weather roads and at present works are in progress to connect 607 habitations adding about 740 KM new roads to the present status. The entire length of NH-44 in Churaibari-Agartala portion has been taken over by the PWD from BRO, GOI and it has taken up the maintenance work of NH-44 from Churaibari to Agartala. As per the constant demand of the State Government, a length of 108 Km of Teliamura-Sabroom road and for alternative connectivity, the road from Kukital, Assam to Kailashahar (53 km) are also declared as National Highway during 2015-16. During 2016-17, it is proposed to take up improvement of 250 KM Roads, completion of 30 Permanent Bridges and Maintenance for the remaining portion of National Highways. **The emphasis in 2016-17 will be maintenance of the existing roads, bridges and buildings and other infrastructure created in the earlier years.**

12. **Rail Connectivity:** Mega Block for broad gauge conversion of Badarpur-Kumarghat-Agartala section has commenced with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2015 with the target for commissioning, together with broad gauging of railway line up to Udaipur, by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016. While first broad gauge train entered Agartala Railway station on 13-1-2016, first commercial goods train had reached Jirania station on 22-2-2016. This is another outstanding success for the people of Tripura. It is expected that passenger train service on regular

basis will run on BG track up to Udaipur from April, 2016. **We demand for a Rajdhani train connecting Agartala to New Delhi and other Superfast trains connecting Agartala to other major cities in the country.** Moreover, works are going-on in full swing on 70.00 kilometer stretch of new BG line of Udaipur-Sabroom section and the same is also targeted to be commissioned by March, 2018.

13. The State Govt. had given clearance to the proposed elevated corridor for the revised Agartala-Akhaura Railway Link Project. It is being vigorously pursued with the Government of India for placing requisite funds to the State Government on account of land acquisition so that land acquisition process may be initiated without further delay.

14. **Air Connectivity:** Modernization of Agartala Airport Project has been taken up by the Airport Authority of India (AAI). 75.726 acres of land have been handed over by the State Government to the Airport Authority of India for development of Agartala Airport meeting in full. **We urge upon the Government of India to expedite the work so that actual work for modernization of Agartala airport is started at the earliest. We also demand for operationalization of Kailashahar and Kamalpur airports immediately.**

15. **Telecom Connectivity:** The tele-connectivity provided by **BSNL is not satisfactory and needs to be improved. The Internet gateway connectivity with Cox-Bazar, Bangladesh is likely to improve the**

**broadband user experience of the citizens of the State.** The advent of the proposed Broad band link via Bangladesh is expected to bring out a sea change in the tele-connectivity and open new vistas for IT development in Tripura.

16. Agartala-Kolkata-via-Dhaka Volvo Bus service has been started from 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 for the benefit of the people of Tripura. Newly constructed motor stands at Kanchanpur, Sonamura and Khumulwng were opened for public use, while the construction of Kalacherra and Dhanpur motor stands are in progress. Steps have already been taken for construction of Motor stand at Teliamura and Integrated Parking complex at Khowai Town area. An Institute of Driving Training and Research Centre is being set up under Public Private Partnership mode near NIT at Jirania and the works are in progress. During 2016-17, it is proposed to construct motor stand at Santirbazar, Inter State Truck Terminus at Dharmanagar and DTO office at Kailashahar.

17. **Power:** The scenario for power consumption has increased this year compared to that of the previous year. The state is able to meet the full peak demand of 266 MW after getting the enhanced share from OTPC, Palatana project. Even at peak period, the excess power available is 164 MW. System loss at present is 35%. Construction of 400 kv transmission line from Surjyamaninagar, Tripura to South Comilla, Bangladesh has been completed for radial power supply of 100 MW to Bangladesh by Tripura.



18. **Irrigation:** Our Government has targeted 1.40 lakh hectares out of the total cultivable land area of 2.55 lakh hectare for coverage under irrigation. During this year, 1245 hectares of land is brought under irrigation and the overall present coverage is 1.148 lakh hectares. **During 2016-17, the plan is to target irrigation coverage of 4,500 hectares.** To achieve this, the ongoing 41 schemes would be completed and new 14 Lift Irrigation Schemes, 50 Deep Tube Wells and 49 Minor Irrigation Storage schemes will also be taken up.

19. **Flood Control:** Presently, around 500 KM of river banks are damaged out of which 25 KM is more vulnerable affecting almost 100 villages. For flood management, anti-erosion work for 2000 metres would be done during this year.

20. **Drinking Water:** Our Government is committed towards providing safe drinking water to the people of the state on priority. All Urban areas are already fully covered, with continuous efforts being made to further improve the quality parameters. In case of rural areas, all 8723 habitations in the State have been covered with drinking water availability. 4990 habitations have reached fully covered status of over 40 liters Per capita per day water supply & 3733 habitations have reached partially covered status with water supply of 10 to 40 liters Per capita per day leaving no un-covered habitation in the state. Efforts are also being made to improve the quality parameters of water supplied in rural areas. The DWS Department has also taken up the programme for

coverage of Schools, Madrassas & Anganwadi Centers with drinking water facilities. So far, 4765 out of 4800 Schools and Madrassas & 9824 AWCs out of 9911 have been covered. During 2016-17, **it is proposed to take up Sinking of 107 Deep Tube Wells, Commissioning of 199 Deep Tube Wells, Sinking & Commissioning of 274 Small Bore Tube Wells, Construction of 42 Iron Removal Plants, Construction of 40 Ground Water Treatment Plants, Construction of 16 Surface Water Treatment Plants and Creation of 87 Spot Sources & 25 Innovative schemes.**

21. **Sanitation:** Initiatives have been taken for achieving open defecation free status for all 1,118 Gram Panchayats and Villages of the State. During 2015-16, the State Government has decided to declare 491 Gram Panchayat / Village Committees as open defecation free by providing 92047 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL). Towards achieving this goal, 40642 Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) have already been constructed and construction of 78574 IHHLs is in progress during the year 2015-16, including carry forward of 2014-15. State has also undertaken to replace defunct toilets for a total of 83916 households during this financial year 2015-16. During 2016-17, it is proposed to declare 627 Gram Panchayats/Village Committees as open defecation free Gram Panchayats / Village Committees by providing 241,004 IHHLs. **Thus, all 1118 GP/VCs will be declared as Open Defecation Free by 2016-17. During 2016-17, it is also proposed to construct 58 Sanitary Complexes.**

22. **Social Education:** A total of 9911 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) are catering to the needs of about 3.47 lakh children (6 months – 6 years) and about 84000 pregnant / expectant mothers and nursing mothers. Efforts are being made to further improve the services provided at different AWCs.

23. **Education:** "Education for All" is the goal and priority of our Government. With this in view, the State Government has been providing education facilities to all irrespective of age, caste, creed and religion. During 2015-16, the present school education department is divided into Elementary Education and Secondary Education Directorates to further improve management of the education system in Tripura. TET is organized for the first time for appointment of teachers. Efforts are also being made to further improve the quality of teaching. Efforts for construction of pucca buildings for various elementary / high and higher secondary schools are continuing. Efforts will also be continued for construction of Midday meal dining halls and kitchen sheds during 2016-17. Drinking water as well as sanitation facilities are also being ensured. Kokborok Language is gradually extended up to Degree Course Level. Other Minority Languages are also implemented in various Schools where majority population speaks these. We also propose to introduce Garo teaching in various schools where majority population speaks Garo Language.

24. During 2016-17, We propose to introduce Yoga in class I to VIII in selected 100 schools, Setting up of Technology cell for the purpose of Information, Communication and Training (ICT) based teacher training,

Revision of existing curriculum and syllabus of class I to VIII, Launching Diploma course in Preschool Education in the 04 DIETS and Providing Bi-cycle to 20,000 girls.

25. Under **Higher Education**, in addition to the existing Higher education centres of learning such as 22 Government colleges, 3 Engineering colleges, 2 Medical Colleges, 1 College of Agriculture, 1 College of Veterinary Science, 1 College of Music, 1 College of Art & Craft, 1 Paramedical Institute and 5 Polytechnics, the **College of Teacher Education** is started at Kumarghat. In addition to the existing two universities in the state, an act has been passed by the State Legislature for setting up of State University namely **Maharaja Bir Bikram University** at MBB College campus and all efforts are being made to start the same from academic session 2016-17. Besides, during 2016-17, it is proposed to start **Polytechnic institute at TTAADC HQ, Khumulwng**.

26. **Social Welfare:** Development of Social sector is an important thrust area of the State Government. **In the month of August, 2015, the State Government has introduced 4 (four) new pension schemes namely Domestic Worker Pension scheme, Transgender Pension scheme, Leprosy Patient Pension scheme and HIV/AIDS Patient Pension scheme.**

27. **This year, the State Government proposes introduction of a new scheme namely social security assistance for Cancer patients with**

annual income of less than Rupees one lakh fifty thousand and with no member in the family in Government service. It is proposed to pay Rs.600/- per month per beneficiary.

28. Besides these, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016, the State Government proposes to revise the rates of all 27 existing pension schemes upwardly by Rupees 100 per month per beneficiary, which are now below Rs.1000/- per month.

29. The State Government proposes to enhance monthly pensions for Anganwadi Workers to Rs.750/- per month and Anganwadi Helpers to Rs.500/- respectively. This is an increase of Rs.250/- per month in case of Anganwadi Workers and Rs.150/- per month in case of Anganwadi Helpers.

30. **Rural Housing:** Rural Housing Scheme is being implemented in the state for providing housing assistance to the BPL homeless families. A total of 18265 houses have been sanctioned during 2015-16, out of which 9417 houses have been sanctioned under **Indira Awaas Yojana** and 8850 houses have been sanctioned under **Tripura State Government Housing Scheme (TSGHS)**. During 2016-17, it is proposed to sanction 27,600 houses under Rural Housing.

31. **Health & Family Welfare:** Healthcare is priority for the State Government. Presently, there are 5 State Level Hospitals and 1 Speciality Hospital, 6 District Hospitals, 11 Sub-Divisional Hospitals, 20 Community Health Centres, 94 Primary Health Centres and 1033 Health Sub-Centres manned by 1088 doctors including Dental Surgeons, Homeopathic and Ayurvedic doctors, 1902 Nurses and 402 Pharmacists. In spite of the shortage of Specialist doctors in the state, several initiatives have been taken during this year including commissioning of New Teaching Hospital-Block-I at GBP Hospital, Installation of MRI Machine at GBP Hospital, Digital X-ray Machines at IGM Hospital and in all District Hospitals, empanelment of 22 New Health Institutions under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana wherein total 108215 patients were benefitted up to December 2015. Further, 3 New PHCs have been commissioned, 3 Mobile Digital X-ray machines have been procured and New Born Care Unit and New Born Stabilization Units have been established in 60 PHCs. Initiative has been taken on Camp Based approach to treat congenital diseases.

32. An innovative initiative called Tele Radiology is proposed to be launched during the year to provide Radiology services to the rural people. During 2016-17, it is proposed to open 8 new Primary Health centres and new Sub-divisional hospitals at Kanchanpur, Teliamura and Amarpur. Initiative shall be taken to start Intensive Care Units (ICU) at District level and Emergency services at Sub-divisional level and Trauma Care Centre in AGMC, Kulai, Dharmanagar and Gomati hospitals. Initiative has been taken for ensuring 24x7 cleaning in all major hospitals. The State Government has launched Tripura Health Assurance

Scheme for Poor in 2014-15 which has benefited 395 patients so far. **During 2016-17, it is proposed to extend the benefits under Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana (RSBY) to all the bedded health institutions in the State. During 2016-17, it is also proposed that both the number and amount meant for supply of medicines are increased along with increase in the amount meant for supply of further improved diet to the patients.**

33. **Tribal Welfare:** The socio-economic, infrastructural, educational and cultural development of Scheduled Tribes has been the top most priority of the State Government. During the current year, elections to the Members of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council and also the Village Development Committees of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council were completed peacefully and smoothly.

34. The State Government announced Special Development Packages for overall development of ST / SC / OBC / Minorities in the State. The State Government is committed towards educational development of ST children, particularly ST girl children. 24,730 ST boarders are accommodated in 306 boarding houses run across the State. 1,25,023 ST students were provided assistance under various schemes like Pre-Matric Scholarship, Boarding House Stipend, Supply of Free Text Books, Merit Awards, Special Coaching in Core Subjects, coaching for Madhyamik Drop-out students. 49 ST boys and girls had been sponsored for GNM and ANM courses to Institutions located inside and

outside the State. Initiatives have been taken for sustainable income by jhumias through agriculture, horticulture and pisciculture under Vanabandhu Kalyan Yojana. Fund had also been placed for electrification of 20 nos. un-electrified ST habitations below 100 population under Vanabandhu Kalyan Yojana. Tripura has successfully implemented Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. 1,24,541 forest dwellers have been vested with forest rights involving 1,75,662.12 hectares of land for gainful utilization of land and providing economic benefits.

35. **SC Welfare:** Government has taken up Special package for socio economic development of scheduled castes by way of developmental works in SC dominated areas for infrastructure development and individual benefit to be provided to deserving SC BPL families. Pre-Matric Scholarship (Class VI to VIII), Pre-Matric scholarship for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations (Class I to X) and Post-Matric scholarship is also given in the State. Besides, there are 52 nos. of boarding houses under the SC Welfare Department and 1,100 SC students are provided accommodation in the boarding houses. During 2015-16, 704 SC beneficiaries have been assisted under different sectors namely Transport, Small Business (Agri. & Allied), Small Business (Laghu Vashya Yojana), Micro Credit Finance, Mahila Samridhi Yojana and Educational Loan. Under SCA to SCSP, skill development training to SC un-employed women for their livelihood under income generating scheme is being organised.



36. During the year 2016-17, it is proposed to enhance the present rate of boarding house stipend for SC / ST students to Rs.46/- from existing rate of Rs.41/- per boarder per day for diet with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016.

37. **OBC Welfare:** The State Government has also focused on the upliftment of the socio-economic condition of the OBC people of the State. For this purpose, a Special Development Package has been launched. During 2015-16, Pre-metric / Post-metric scholarship / Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Merit Award have been considered to 44474 nos., 18325 nos. and 1463 nos. students respectively. Besides, 119 students have been sponsored for undergoing B. Sc. Nursing / GNM courses.

38. **Minority Welfare:** The Left Front Government is working with a mandate to ensure overall development of the Minorities in Tripura for which 28-Point Special Package has been announced during 2013. To accomplish the mandate, Rs.84.56 cores has been sanctioned to District Magistrates for undertaking construction of additional classrooms, computer and science laboratories in Schools, extension of drinking water facilities, construction of Madrassa school buildings, Health Sub-Centres etc. in the Minority concentrated areas under Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP). During 2015-16, 29,416 Minority students have been covered under stipend and Scholarship Schemes. Government has already sponsored 144 students in GNM, B.Sc. Nursing, Engineering course and paramedical courses during the current

financial year. Financial assistance @ Rs.10,000/- each has been provided to 2000 Minority families during 2015-16 for starting small business under Group Village Scheme & 67 families have been provided financial assistance for construction of house etc. @ Rs.75,000/- each under Settlement Scheme. 150 seated Nazrul Chatraabash is almost at completion stage. Rs.1614.70 lakhs has been disbursed to 742 no. of beneficiaries as term loan.

39. **Food, Civil Supplies & Warehousing:** Tripura is the first State of the North East Region which has implemented the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2015 covering 25 lakhs beneficiary–population. Beneficiaries are provided rice at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kg, for which the state Government is bearing subsidy of Rs. 1/- per kg. Under NFSA, the Antyodaya families are getting 35 kg rice per month, while priority household groups are getting 5 kg per head per month. Other families not covered under NFSA are also provided APL rice under PDS at subsidized price. 5 (five) new food godowns with 3500 MT storage space are constructed to augment the PDS storage space of more than 60,000 MT. Creation of further 13,000 MT storage space is in progress.

40. From 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016, we propose to increase the existing subsidy on mustard oil from Rs.15/- per litre to Rs.20/- per litre and the existing subsidy on masur and moong dal from Rs.10/- per kg to Rs.15/- per kg for supply of 2 kg masur and moong dal. Thus, **the total subsidy for supply of one litre mustard oil and 2 kg. masur and moong dal per family per month is**

**proposed to be increased from Rs.35/- to Rs.50/- per month per family.** Now, Rs.150/- will be transferred to every bank account of ration card holders every three months. At present, most of the ration card holders have submitted their bank account number to the Sub Divisional Magistrates and are availing of this subsidy. To prevent pilferage, integration of PDS with Aadhar Number will be introduced.

**41. Agriculture:** The economy of the State is primarily dominated by the agricultural sector. During 2015-16, cultivation of Hybrid Paddy and HYV Paddy through System of Rice Intensification (SRI) for increasing production of foodgrains and profitability of the farmers and utilizing seasonal fallow land under 'Crop Diversification' programme mainly with suitable pulse and oilseed crops have been implemented with greater thrust covering anticipated 26000 hectare area. Mission Organic value chain development for North Eastern Region to cover 2000 ha area under Organic farming and installation of about 4000 no. Small Bore Deep Tube wells (SBDTW) or Mini-Deep Tube wells are the new initiatives taken up by the Department during 2015-16. Due to these concerted efforts, the anticipated food-grain production during 2015-16 is expected to be 8.12 lakh Metric Tons as against 7.62 Lakh Metric Tons in 2014-15. **During 2016-17, our aim is to increase the food grain production by an additional quantity of 50,000 Metric Tons.**

**42. Horticulture:** During 2015 -16, in addition to the existing area of 71180 ha under Fruits, 4533 hectare area has been brought under cultivation of

different fruit crops. Similarly, in addition to the existing area of 39192 ha under different types of vegetables, 1094 hectare area has been brought under cultivation of different vegetables crops. Considering the demand for pineapple across the region, another 910 hectare area has been brought under Pineapple staggering to make pineapple available in the market round the year. **During 2016-17, 700 Ha of area will be taken up for cultivation of Off-Season vegetables like Cabbage, Cauliflower, Tomato etc., in the state.**

**43. ARDD:** The State Government has given special thrust towards development of animal resources, resulting in increased production of milk, meat and egg sector. During 2015-16, 101944 MT milk, 25460 MT meat and 14.40 Cr eggs have been produced up to October 2015. **During 2016-17, it is proposed to launch two new schemes namely Installation of Pellet feed mill and mineral mixture Plant at R.K.Nagar and automated poultry layer house at State Poultry Farm, Gandhi gram.**

**44. Fishery:** Our Government is committed to enhance fish production in the State for minimizing the gap between present demand and supply of fish from local production through implementation of various developmental activities. During 2015-16, the production of fish is expected to cross 68000 MT. **During 2016-17, it is proposed to enhance the production of fish to 71000 MT with more emphasis on the programs namely promotion of feed based intensive fish culture for optimum increase in productivity, popularizing use of aerator in fish culture for higher fish**

**production, intensification of integrated fish culture for productivity increase, fish culture in newly created & reclaimed water bodies, production of seed of high value fish & its culture, diversification of aqua culture & qualitative improvement of fish seed.**

**45. Forest:** Our Government attaches huge importance to the development of the forestry sector which has a bearing on our food, water and energy security. People centric approach is being adopted for the conservation and development of forest resources, along with generation of more revenue from the forest area. More than one lakh families have been covered by constituting Joint Forest Management Committees and Self Help Groups and are benefitting from various schemes. A large number of forest dwellers are directly benefitted from the collection and marketing of non-forest produce. During 2015 – 16, the restructuring of the Forest Department on the lines of Revenue Districts and Subdivisions has been completed. Besides, about 2000 ha agro-forestry plantation has been raised for about 2000 shifting cultivators, mainly on RFR patta lands covering the barren hill tops during 2015-16. A special project for conservation of water, recharging the ground water table and protection of both banks of Howrah River was also implemented. Steps have been taken to introduce the Chinese Moso Bamboo and develop the mechanized system of bamboo plantation to increase its productivity from existing 1 MT / ha to 5 MT / ha. Under Income Generation livelihood activities, 700 MT broom grass was collected worth Rs.5 Cr. involving about 5000 families and creation of 2645 micro-enterprises (skilling; agarbatti stick making; handicrafts etc., ) involving

15000 families grouped under 1500 SHGs was done for their livelihood activities. The efforts of the Forest Department in Forestry related activities are further augmented by the activities taken up under JICA and IGDC projects. During 2016-17, it is proposed to preserve the forest cover in about 20000 ha catchment area for ensuring proper flow of water in Howrah River as also recharging the ground water table along with similar projects to cover all the rivers in Tripura under JICA project Phase II. **The State Government is encouraging taking up of cultivation of medicinal plants in the forest area.**

**46. TRP & PTG Welfare:** Only the **Reang** Community has been recognized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PTG) in Tripura. During 2015-16, 300 ha. of rubber plantation for 300 tribal families have been raised. **Rehabilitation through innovative Bamboo plantation will be implemented this year in a gradual manner.**

**47. Industry:** The State Government is endeavoring to facilitate industry and 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. Locally available resources like Rubber, Bamboo, Tea, natural gas, fruits & vegetables etc. are identified as priority sectors for maximum value addition.

48. With a view to promote utilization of natural resources available in Tripura, the Government has decided to amend the Tripura State Incentive Scheme, 2012 to provide incentive for setting up enterprises in Bamboo, Rubber, Food Processing and Gas. **It is proposed that Capital Investment subsidy will be increased from the existing 25% to 35% with overall ceiling of Rs.60.00 lakhs. The subsidy is available on fixed capital investment in land, civil works, plant and machineries & equipment for five years from the date of commencement. This amendment shall be applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016.**

49. I, on behalf of the State Government, propose to enhance the subsidy available on the Swavalamban scheme from the existing amount of Rs.60,000/- to Rs.75,000/- per project with a view to assist unemployed youth for self-employment. This enhanced subsidy will be applicable for new projects from the year 2016-17. This is expected to benefit about 4000 projects per year.

50. **Self Help Groups:** Self Help Groups have been the economic backbone of the rural microfinance. Under **Tripura State Support Project on SHGs (TSSPS)**, eligible SHGs are provided with Start-up Soft Loan for Rupees one lakh, of which Rs.50,000/- has been the government component. Rate of interest for the government component has been 4% per annum. The required fund under Government component is entirely met from State resources. Till date, 8,327 SHGs have been brought under this Project, of which 5456 SHGs

have repaid the loan including interest. In view of the success of the Project and to further encourage the SHGs to rededicate themselves, **it is proposed to reduce the existing rate of interest on the government component of TSSPS from existing 4% per annum to 3.5% per annum.**

51. **Information Technology:** While our state was lagging behind in IT services earlier, the proposed inauguration of the IT building in June 2016 and the opening of the Broad Band gateway link via Bangladesh is expected to open new vistas in the IT sector of the state. The State Government has initiated several steps to make information readily available to its people at the press of a few buttons through implementation of Information Technology services. A total of 13 (thirteen) online services have been launched under e-District project on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015. Citizens can check status of their application online. 12 services of 9 departments have already been launched under this online platform. Wi-fi Hotspot has been inaugurated at the Central Birchandra Public Library, Agartala. Disaster Recovery (DR) site for State Data Center has been implemented at National Data Center (NDC), New Delhi. An Incubation Centre is being set up by Software Technology Park of India at Lichibagan to promote IT entrepreneurship.

52. During 2016-17, Cloud based service delivery will be provisioned in Tripura State Data Center to offer on-demand self-services, optimal utilization, better management and monitoring to different Departments at the State. New



services would be launched under e-District online platform. **State Government intends to extend broadband internet connectivity to all the Tehsil Offices in Tripura to offer greater benefits to citizens under various e-Governance projects such as e-District, Mutation of Land Records, SSDG etc.,**

**53. Tourism:** Tripura offers vast potential for growth of Tourism. With the improvement of the road, rail, air and telecom connectivity of the state, the State Government has taken a comprehensive plan for promotion of Tourism in the state, which includes among other things augmenting accommodation facilities (both in Government and Private sector), construction of star hotel, improving the existing infrastructure and attractions of major tourist destinations, developing the communication network and strengthening the skill of the manpower engaged in this sector. As a result, domestic & foreign tourist flow and earning of revenue have shown an increasing trend. During 2015-16, construction of the Academic and Administrative building for establishment of a State Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology at Anandanagar, Agartala and a Hostel have been completed. Destination Development Project of Bhramakunda and Chhabimura has been inaugurated. Renovation and retrofitting of existing palace of Neermahal, Melaghar has been completed. **During 2016-17, it is proposed to initiate works in respect of Light and Sound Show (SEL Show) at Ujjayanta Palace, Agartala through ITDC, and to start Destination Development of Golaghati, Dumbur, Narikel Kunja etc., and Infrastructure for Border Ceremony at**

## **Akhaura as a part of Destination Development of "Development of Agartala-Sepahijala-Melagarh-Udaipur-Amarpur-Thirthamuk-Dumbur-Ambassa-Baramura Circuit".**

54. **Sports & Youth Affairs:** Tripura has got good and encouraging track record in Games, Sports and Youth activities. During the year 2015-16, Smt Dipa Karmakar and Sri Samir Barman eminent sports personalities have upheld the name of the State at National and International level. Sri Papan Saha & Sri Sukanta Debnath have been rewarded as Best Youth of the Country for their social works and Youth activities. Sri Sambhu Chakraborty and Smt Sheli Debnath rewarded best Yoga award at National Junior level Yoga Competition. Adequate focus has been given on quality sports infrastructure at Block / sub-divisional and district level across the State.

55. **During 2016-17, One New Scheme under nomenclature of "Rural Sports" is proposed to be rolled down, focusing on the Boys, Girls as well as youth residing in rural areas, with an objective to involve them in sports activities, identifying sports talent and help them to participate in competitive sports at different levels. Special Yoga programme at the school level is proposed to be introduced in 2016-17, on a larger measure.**

56. **Information and Cultural Affairs:** Main objective of Our Government is to help and promote culture in all possible manners with a view to maintain and strengthen our sense of unity and integrity. Keeping that in mind, our

Government through ICA Department has been trying its level best to take care of every segment of cultural activities including special boost for performing activities. **In this budget, I propose to increase expenditure for further encouragement of the performing groups of different segments and strata, both in rural and urban areas.**

57. **Rural Development:** There cannot be any progress until the rural areas of the State are developed. The objective of rural development is to create conducive atmosphere with infrastructure development for rural growth and eradication of rural poverty. In this regard, positive advancements are there. Our Government will continue this endeavour with all seriousness.

58. **MGNREGA:** The State has been showing exemplary performance in the Country towards implementation of MGNREGA. Under MGNREGA, Labour Budget of the State for the financial Year 2015-16 is 5.36 crore Person Days which comes to 87 Average Person Days approximately. Considering the pace of works, person days have been revised to 5.67 crore for which average person days have been projected to be 92. This is an increase of 31 lakhs Person days over the initial target of this years' labour budget. By the end of ongoing financial year, revised targets of Average Person Days and total Person Days are likely to be achieved. **During 2016-17, it is proposed to generate 92 Average Person Days and 5.6 Crores total Person Days.**

59. **Urban Development:** The State Government aims towards inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth of towns and cities with proper civic amenities and to provide adequate opportunity for productive employment and a decent quality of life to all their inhabitants. Elections to 20 Urban Local Bodies including Agartala Municipal Corporation, 13 Municipal Councils and 6 Nagar Panchayats were held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and the 310 newly elected members have taken over the local governance in these bodies.

60. **During 2016-17, Construction works of 4 shelters for urban homeless under NULM are proposed to commence this year. It is also proposed to take up rejuvenation of beautification of water bodies in urban area under AMRUT. Skill training and placement as well as self-employment for urban poor under NULM are also planned this year. The state government is unhappy for non-selection of Agartala in the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of Smart cities programme. However, the state government is going ahead with preparation of master plan for overall development of all 20 ULBs.**

61. **Revenue:** During 2015-16, Government khas land has been allotted in favour of 5,113 BPL families, mutation has been allowed in respect of 45,680 cases and an amount of Rs. 50.57 Crores has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs under BADP programme for taking up infrastructural projects in 31 bordering blocks. The National Land Records and Modernization Programme (NLRMP) is being implemented successfully in our State for digitization of land

records. Digitization of Maps has also been completed. This year 2 (two) new Sub-Registry Offices have been opened at Teliamura and Santirbazar Sub-Divisions. Now, online registration of deed is being done in 17 Sub-Registry Offices in the State having integration with CLR database. All the Tehasil Kacharies of the State have been computerized during the year.

62. Disaster Management has been given high importance by Government as Tripura is located in highly earthquake prone zone and associated with other natural and man-made disasters. As a regular activity, awareness generation, training and capacity building, preparation of disaster management plans and mock drills are being organized at all levels. Various critical equipments have been purchased and placed at all sub-divisional headquarters and Tripura State Rifles (TSR) Battalions. State and District Emergency Operation Centres are functioning round the clock. As an alternate communication system, the Software Defined Radio (SDR) is being installed in all Emergency Operation Centres at State and District levels.

**63. Home: Law & Order:** Mr. Speaker Sir, perhaps no society can sustain without proper and adequate security measures. With the continuous support and cooperation from the people of the State, particularly from the interior areas, the Police have been able to achieve commendable success during 2015-16. Law and order situation has improved noticeably during this year and is presently well under control. There were no cases of extremist violence in the state during the year. The general crime under heads of Burglary, Murder,

Rioting and crime against women showed a reduction during the financial year 2015-16. It is noteworthy that the people are whole heartedly co-operating with Police and actively taking part in the community policing programme, namely PRAYASA. **Initiative has been taken to further improve the activities of PRAYASA involving different sections of the people of our society.**

64. During 2015-16, 2 new Police station buildings at Sonamura and Silachari, 1 new outpost building at Bamutia and 2 (two) Women Help Desks have been created at Raishyabari and Sonamura Police Stations. 1 TSR Company Head Quarters at Hatimatha, 3 (three) SDPO Office-cum-Residences at Amarapur, Kanchanpur and Karbook Sub-Divisions and 2 (two) Parade Grounds at newly created Khowai and Sepahijala Districts have also been developed.

65. **Fire Services:** During 2016-17, 7(seven) new Fire Stations alongwith other infrastructure are proposed to be opened. Computerisation of NOC system for Fire Safety and Fire Audit within AMC area will be started and Community based training for assisting administration during Disaster will be initiated.

66. **Justice Delivery & Judicial Infrastructure:** Improvement of Justice Delivery is priority for the state government. During 2015-16, Construction of Court building (G+5) in the Court Complex of District & Sessions Judge, West Tripura and Court building at Sabroom, South Tripura are in progress.

Installation of Video Conferencing facility connectivity of the Jails with District Courts, Kendria Sansodhanagar, Bishalgarh and the District Jails at Kailashahar, Unakoti District and Udaipur, Gomati District respectively has been completed. **During 2016-17, it is proposed to Construct Court Building at Kamalpur and a new multistoried Court Building (G+2) in the premises of Addl. District & Sessions Judge's Court, Khowai.**

67. **Finance:** Under Financial Inclusion Plan and as per decision taken in the State Level Bankers Committee meeting, 82 new centers identified for opening Bank branches and as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, the Banks opened 64 branches including 44 Ultra Small branches (USB) throughout the State. At present, there are 35 Banks catering their services with 489 branches. Upto January 2016, 672699 Accounts have been opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana comprising of 473920 Rural Accounts and 198779 Urban Accounts. Rs. 267.68 Crores have been deposited. 497142 Accounts have been seeded with Aadhar Number which is approximately 73.90 percent of the total accounts opened. 115844 Zero balance Accounts have also been opened. Average deposit per account is Rs.3979/-. Govt. of India has shortlisted the West Tripura District for presentation for the Prime Minister Award for Excellence in Public Administration for the year 2016.

68. Total revenue collection during 2015-16 up to January, 2016 from Value Added Tax, Excise Duty, Professional Tax, Agricultural Income Tax, Luxury Tax and Entertainment Tax of Rs.74566.53 lakh, Rs.10927.89 lakh, Rs.3378.03 lakh,

Rs.13.81 lakh, Rs.121.97 lakh and Rs.211.42 lakh respectively with growth rates of 18.00%, 10.46%, -0.17%, -23.45%, 46.39% and 319.40% respectively.

69. 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. 892.19 crores has been realized during the year 2015-16. e-Services have been proved to be a transparent, user friendly, hassle-free means to the business community.

70. Now, I would like to highlight about the Receipts and Expenditure projected in Budget Estimates of 2016-17. The collection of State's Own Tax Revenue is projected at Rs.1439.98 Cr in Budget Estimates with a growth rate of 8.89% over the Revised Estimates of last year. The collection of State's Non Tax Revenue is projected at Rs.295.14 Cr in BE 2016-17 with a growth rate of 3.89% over Revised Estimate of last year. The Receipts from share of Central taxes have been projected at Rs.4299.00 Cr in Budget Estimates with an increase of 25.09% over the Revised Estimates of last Year.

71. State is expected to get Rs.1089.00 Cr under Non-Plan Gap Grant during 2016-17 as against the amount of Rs.1089.00 Cr received during 2015-16.

72. The central transfers other than Share of Central Taxes have been anticipated at Rs.6851.86 Cr in Budget Estimates 2016-17.



73. The overall Total Receipts excluding adjustment of Opening Balance in Budget Estimate 2016-17 will be Rs.14457.98 Cr. The gross borrowing is projected at Rs.1570.00 Cr in Budget Estimates which includes Open Market Borrowing of Rs.1003.00 Cr and negotiated loan of Rs.200.00 Cr.

74. The Total Expenditure under Budget Estimates 2016-17 is projected at Rs.15246.52 Cr with a growth of 17.34% over the Revised Estimates of 2015-16. This includes Non-Plan Expenditure of Rs.8631.59 Cr. An amount of Rs.6614.93 Cr has been kept under the Plan with an increase of 9.47% over the Revised Estimates of 2015-16.

The position in brief is:

(Rupees in Crore)

(A)	Revenue Account		
	1.	Receipts	12885.98
	2.	Expenditure	10527.23
	3.	Surplus (A1 – A2)	2358.75
(B)	Capital Account		
	1.	Receipts from loans & others (including public account & OB)	2172.00
	2.	Disbursements	4719.29
	3.	Deficit (B1 – B2)	2547.29
(C)	Total Receipts: (A1)+(B1)		15057.98
(D)	Total Expenditure: (A2)+(B2)		15246.52
Budget Deficit (C – D)			188.54

75. The Hon'ble Members will appreciate the fact that despite slowing economy and difficult financial conditions of the State mainly due to the measures taken by the Government of India, I have tried to increase the allocations. There will be a Budget Deficit of Rs.188.54 Cr which I intend to cover by means of better tax compliance, austerity measures and additional resource mobilization.

76. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with these words I commend the Budget Proposals for 2016-17 for consideration and approval of this August House.

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