



BUDGET SPEECH

2013-14

By

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GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA

26th April 2013

Mr. Speaker Sir,

With your kind permission, I rise to present the Budget for the year 2013-14.

2. At the outset, I express my deep sense of grief and pay homage to the members of the security forces who laid down their lives to protect the unity and integrity of the country. I also pay homage to the peace loving citizens who lost their lives at the hands of fundamentalists and terrorists in different parts of the country.

3. Let me congratulate the people of the State for establishing 7th Left Front Government through a historic election which recorded a voter turnout of 94% with an all time high record of voting by women voters. I express my gratitude to the voters who participated in election and the officials & the security personnel on election duty who contributed to the successful conduct of the election.

4. In the aftermath of liberalization and globalization, the country has been witnessing several high-profile cases of corruption involving political leaders and corporate houses. A parallel economy is running with black money stashed inside and outside the country. Despite the demands from

various corners, no viable steps have been taken by the Government of India to arrest the rise of black money and bring back money stashed in banks abroad. The Lokpal Bill has not been enacted so far. The Government of India should initiate measures for bringing the black money from outside and curb its generation.

5. The countrymen in general and the working class in particular have been adversely affected by ever increasing inflation particularly in food prices. This is further aggravated by the policies pursued by the Government of India, including de-regulation of petrol and diesel prices putting the working class to severe hardships.

6. The global economic crisis which started in 2007-08 has exposed the weaknesses of globalization controlled by finance capital. In order to bail out the organizations responsible for this crisis by offering billion dollar packages, the United States and the countries of Eurozone have reduced the expenditure on social sector and imposed tough economic measures – only to put more burden on common people. The people are raising their voices against such policies like the 'Occupy Wall Street Movement' in America and powerful movements of students and workers in other European countries. Majority of Latin American countries have abandoned liberalization policies in favour of alternate policies.

7. But despite these developments, our country's economic policy has continued to move ahead uninterrupted on the path of globalization, privatization and liberalization. The strategic coalition with the US has started casting its adverse effect on the policymaking and lives of the masses. The policy of liberalization nurtured by the Union Government is being carried forward with disinvestments in PSUs, opening drug industries to the control of multi-national companies, opening of retail sector to FDI, facilitating entry of private foreign institutions / investors into insurance, university, media sectors and above all, allowing foreign direct investment in the economy to implement Central Government's liberalization policy.

8. These steps have allowed private and foreign investors to plunder lucrative PSUs. Not only this, plans are afoot now to invest the pension funds of the Government employees in the Stock market. Avenues of employment are shrinking, new recruitments have almost stopped and the number of contract and temporary workforce is on the rise. Incidents of suicides by the farmers are also on the rise due to ongoing agrarian crisis. Livelihood of Agriculture labourers and rural poor has become more difficult. Large scale acquisition of land in the interest of domestic and foreign corporate houses is adding to the number of landless families.

9. Hon'ble Members are aware of the adverse impact of the award of the 13th Finance Commission on the State's Finances. Despite the pressure on State's Finances, the Government has managed its finances very prudently. Despite repeated requests to Government of India for Special Package to the State to get over the impact of the adverse award of the 13th Finance Commission, the Government of India did not come forward with any Special Package. It is hoped that the 14th Finance Commission would adequately address the concerns of the State Government so that the State would be in a position to remove the disparities in the pay scales of the Central Government and the State Government employees.

10. Our Government has enacted the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2005 and has consistently achieved the targets under the FRBM Act during the 13th Finance Commission award period.

11. The Government of India has unilaterally announced the scheme of Direct Transfer of Benefits to the beneficiaries under different social welfare schemes through ADHAR linked Bank Account. But the banking infrastructure in the North Eastern States, particularly in Tripura has been highly inadequate to take up the onerous task. The Government of India

needs to instruct Banks to cover villages with 2000 plus population with Bank branches and remaining villages are provided with ATMs for smooth roll out of Direct Transfer of Benefits. The State Government has recently identified 107 new locations in rural areas for opening of bank branches in addition to 170 locations for new ATMs and has taken up with the Banks in the SLBC for opening of the branches and ATMs in a time bound manner.

12. The Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) in Tripura has continued to be very low. Despite the directions of the Governor, RBI, to achieve at least 40% C.D. Ratio, it continues to remain at 33% as on 31st March, 2013. There is need to improve the C.D. Ratio to 50% to provide adequate credit flow.

13. The State Government has enacted the Tripura Protection of Interests of Depositors' (in Financial Establishments) Act.2000 for protecting the interests of the depositors in the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Chit Funds. However, many of the NBFCs and Chit Funds were registered outside the State and hence beyond the regulatory powers of the State Government. The State Government has urged the Government of India for enacting a comprehensive Central legislation duly vesting the powers in the State Government for regulating the NBFCs and Chit Funds to protect the interests of the depositors and investors. The

Government of India is yet to take steps in this direction. However, the State has been taking various regulatory measures under the State Act.

14. One of the most important problems faced in Tripura is the problem of unemployment of the educated youth. The State has been taking up several measures for faster industrialization besides other incentives for self-employment under programme like Tripura State Support Project and Swabalamban. Unfortunately, the policies of the Government of India have not been conducive for generation of new employment as the Government of India has not been filling up vacant posts and has committed to downsizing the Government employment. However, the State Government has created new posts and filled up vacant posts in Government sector as per need during the last five years. Our Government's policy of providing meaningful employment will continue. I urge the Government of India to take up Special Recruitment Drive to fill up all vacant posts and also consider locating Central Public Sector Undertakings in the North East so that the unemployed educated youths of this backward region will get employment avenues.

15. The Gender Budget indicating the Department-wise provisions for the women out of the Plan Outlay in respect of various Departments is

being presented in Statement -14 of Budget at a Glance along with the Budget. The Government is committed to the welfare of the women and has been taking several steps including formation of SHGs and provision of reservation upto 50% in the local bodies. I also urge the Government of India to pass the Women Reservation Bill providing for 33% reservation of seats for women in Parliament and State Legislatures.

16. There have been significant achievements in the field of Agriculture due to implementation of the Perspective Plan for self-sufficiency in foodgrain production. Recognizing the State's efforts in increasing foodgrain production and productivity, the Government of India conferred Commendation Award upon the State during 2012-13. During the last year, the State had covered 87978 hectares of area under Systematic Rice Intensification (SRI) of Paddy and level of assistance available for the SRI has been increased to Rs.3918 per hectare from Rs.1650/- per hectare. Availability of chemical fertilizers has been ensured resulting in per hectare use of 65 Kg of NPK in 2012-13 from 55 Kg in 2011-12. During 2012-13, the State has achieved production of 7,13,222 MT of Rice and it is targeted to produce 7,91,160 MT during the current year.

17. The State has given special thrust for issue of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) by the Banks and during last financial year, 1,03,840 KCCs have been issued. The State is proposing to take up Crop Diversification Programme from 2013-14 to 2016-17 for bringing 73364 hectares (including 30350 hectare under Horticulture crops) out of 143933 hectares of seasonal fallow lands under cultivation of pulses, oil seeds vegetables, flowers and nutri-cereals over next four years. During the year 1000 MT Cold Storage at Satchand has been completed while Cold Storages at Dharmanagar, Udaipur, Ambassa, Amarpur, Khowai and Belonia are in progress.

18. In the Horticulture Sector, there is substantial increase in production and productivity of fruits, vegetables and spices. Total production of horticulture items has gone up from 6.62 lakh tons to 13.86 lakh tons from 2002 to 2012. The State has also started provision of certified vegetable seeds through registered growers and introduced new crops like Mausambi, Strawberry, Carrot, Beetroots, Capsicum and number of commercially remunerative flowers. During 2012-13, the Department brought 11232 hectares of land under horticultural crops. During 2013-14, it is targeted to bring 16125 hectares additionally under horticulture. During the last year 230 water sources were created and 248 sources will

be created during the current year. As against 330 Vermi- compost units set up during 2012-13, the Department is targeting to assist for setting up 2175 units.

19. As part of the Plan for crop diversification in seasonal fallow lands for increasing the cropping intensity, it is proposed to bring 30350 hectares of fallow land during next four years under horticultural crops of which 5025 hectares will be covered during the current year. A Centre of Excellence for Vegetables is proposed to be established during the year.

20. The State has made good progress in production of meat, eggs, etc. During the year 2012-13, the State produced approximately 1,15,594 MT of Milk, 26,875 MT of Meat and 15.75 Cr of Eggs making a per capita per year availability of 84 grams of Milk, 7.12 Kg of Meat and 42 No. of Eggs. The State lacks in production of milk and accordingly special efforts will be taken during the next few years. During 2013-14, it is targeted to attain production of 121259 MT Milk, 29025 MT of Meat and 18.63 Cr Eggs. Some of the measures envisioned include artificial insemination of cattle for genetic up-gradation in 1.70 lakh cattle, supply of calf growth meal to 500 heifers, prevention and control of animal diseases and fodder development.

21. The construction work of the first phase of College of Veterinary Science Building at R.K. Nagar with an outlay of Rs.16.30 Cr is expected to be completed by June, 2013. National Mission for Protein Supplements, a sub-scheme under RKVY has been taken up during the year 2012-13 and would be continued in the coming years.

22. With effective and systematic implementation of perspective plan, the production of Fish in the State has increased remarkably. The Fishery sector continued its growth trajectory during the year with expected production of 57,460 tons by the end of 2012-13 as against the target of 53,350 MT. The per capita availability increased from 15.06 Kg to 16 Kg during the same period. Progress was also witnessed in creation of new water bodies of 1320.45 hectares, formation of 81 new SHGs and bringing 2000.36 hectares under scientific fish cultivation. It is proposed to continue the efforts with target of increasing the per capita availability of fish to 17 Kg by 2013-14.

23. Consequent upon the re-organization of the administrative units, the number of Cooperative Circles has increased from 36 to 54. It is a matter of satisfaction that 14 Primary Marketing Cooperative Societies have

started running in profit and are further expanding their business activities. It is heartening to note that the Tripura State Cooperative Bank (TSCB) has wiped out the accumulated losses and obtained banking license from the Reserve Bank of India complying with all necessary formalities. The work for starting Core Banking Solutions in the TSCB is presently in progress and the bank is expected to roll out Core Banking facilities during this year.

24. Keeping in mind the importance of forests for maintenance of natural environment and livelihood security of people, the State Government has been attaching utmost importance to preservation and expansion of forests in a sustainable manner. Efforts were made for afforestation with active involvement of people through Joint Forests Management Committee (JFMC). So far over 946 JFMCs have been formed involving 95050 forest dependent families. Two externally aided projects, namely JICA and IGDC are being implemented, *inter-alia*, for rehabilitation of degraded forests and generating livelihood opportunities for the people. In 2012-13, plantations have been raised over 19,130 hectares of degraded forest area out of which about 8015 hectares of area has been covered by Bamboo plantation.

25. The forest cover in Tripura now stands at about 76.04% of the total geographical area as against 21.05% for the country as a whole. During the current year, an area of 20,050 hectares will be afforested with special emphasis to denuded hills, river banks, RoFR areas. Special projects have also been taken up for afforestation and stabilization of catchment areas of Howrah & Gumti rivers.

26. Ensuring food security to the citizens is the fundamental duty of the Government. The Government of India is yet to introduce the Food Security Bill for comprehensive and effective food security of the people. The proposed legislation should be comprehensive and should not discriminate between APL and BPL. However, without waiting for the Food Security Bill, the State Government has taken the lead by introducing the scheme of supply of 35 Kg Rice to the BPL Cardholders at the rate Rs.2/- per Kg involving subsidy of Rs.36.45 Cr per annum. Besides this, 9886 uncovered listed BPL families of Dhalai district are provided 35 Kg of Rice and 1,51,901 uncovered listed BPL families of the remaining districts are also being supplied 22 Kg Rice at Rs.6.15 per Kg per month on adhoc basis. The scale of APL rice has also been increased from 18 Kg to 25 Kg per family.

27. Major initiatives have been taken for augmentation of storage capacity. Construction of 28 Food Godowns with capacity of 30,000 MT is going on in order to build up buffer stock for four months period. Steps have been taken to bring remote areas of the State under POL/LPG network. Twenty two new LPG Agencies will be opened in different uncovered locations of the State under RGGLV. Twenty seven Retail POL outlets and 9 Kisan Seva Kendras will also be opened in the rural areas of the State. To modernize PDS and bring much needed reforms, a comprehensive project for "End to end" computerization of PDS is under implementation. As part of this initiative, measures have been taken to digitize all Ration Cards, computerization of supply-chain management and setting up of web portal in public domain and toll-free call centre.

28. The Government of India has been taking several steps which have an effect of weakening the services under Public Distribution System. The Direct Transfer of Benefits for PDS will adversely impact the poor beneficiaries depriving them the much needed essential commodities. It is unfortunate that the Government of India has done away with the levy sugar policy. Our Government has been urging the Government India for bringing 14 essential commodities under PDS. I urge the Government of India to reconsider the decisions of Direct Transfer of Benefits for PDS and

removal of levy sugar and also arrange for support of essential commodities like pulses, edible oil, iodized salt at subsidized rates through PDS without distinction between APL and BPL Cardholders.

29. The State attached great importance for increasing the area under irrigation in order to increase production of agricultural crops and increasing incomes of the farmers. The State has envisioned and taken Action Plan for taking 50% of the cultivable land that is 1,27,700 hectares under irrigation of which an area of 1,10,524 hectares has been brought under irrigation coverage by the end of March, 2012. It is proposed to bring 5070 hectares under irrigation during 2013-14. The work on the Khowai Medium Irrigation Project is nearing completion while the works on Gumti and Manu Medium Irrigation Projects are in progress.

30. Six kilometers of new anti-soil erosion work would also be taken up. Other projects have been sent for consideration of the Central Government to implement scientific measures for increasing depth and water carrying capacity of major rivers of the State for flood control. Project for control of soil erosion and protection of the river banks from erosion has also been posed to Central Government for approval. Efforts would be on for obtaining approval of these projects.

31. Provision of drinking water has been the focus of the Government and it achieved remarkable progress in creation of drinking water sources both in the rural and urban areas due to concerted efforts. The success of the Government in provision of drinking water is reflected in reduction of waterborne diseases. The DWS Department has achieved the coverage of 1311 habitations during 2012-13. The Department has completed 70 Iron Removal Plants and 144 works are in progress. A record 13 Surface Water Treatment Plants were commissioned in rural areas and 16 works are in progress. Drinking water facilities were provided to 653 rural schools taking the total coverage to 4148 schools. Water supply facilities were also provided to 1827 Anganwadi Centres taking the total coverage to 8224 Anganwadi Centres. The Government has taken up a programme to cover all non-covered habitations during 2013-14.

32. The Department has achieved construction of 7439 Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) during the year 2012-13 under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan. The State Government has completed a Baseline Survey during the year 2012-13 for providing IHHL for non-covered/defunct latrines in the rural areas and submitted a proposal to Government of India with an outlay of Rs.558.00 Cr to construct 4,20,348 IHHL over a period of 4 years.

33. The State Government attaches top priority for all out development and upliftment of Scheduled Tribes through a number of initiatives in the field of education, cultural and socio-economic activities. During the year 2012-13, several initiatives were taken for socio-economic, cultural and educational development of tribals in the State. The Department has given top priority for educational development of ST children particularly to reduce the dropout rate from primary to Madhyamik level. During the last financial year, 1,65,436 ST students were provided assistance under various schemes. During 2013-14, the Department shall continue to support ST children in their education by providing boarding house stipend, post-matric and pre-matric scholarships and merit awards, etc. The rate of boarding house stipend for ST and SC students is proposed to be revised to Rs.41/- per student per day from the existing Rs.30/- . Total 1460 surrendered Returnees were provided rehabilitation package during the year 2012-13.

34. Provisions of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act. 2006 were implemented successfully in Tripura. So far, 1,20,418 Forest Dwellers have been vested with the Forest Rights.

35. The TRP & PTG Department implements various programmes like provision of dwelling houses, rehabilitation through rubber and bamboo plantations, livelihood schemes with assistance for rearing Pigs, Goats and Milch Cow, etc. and educational incentives to the meritorious students and coaching to the PTG students besides host of other schemes in Agri and Allied activities. The Department is also providing medical services through Mobile Medical Units. The Department proposes to enhance its outreach and coverage during the current year.

36. Government has been making all out efforts for socio-economic development and welfare of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes.

37. During 2012-13, 1,18,399 SC students were given stipend/scholarship under various schemes like Post-matric Scholarship/Pre-matric Scholarship/ Boarding House Stipend/Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Memorial Award, etc. Boarding House Stipend for SC students would be raised from Rs.30/- per student per day to Rs.41/- per student per day.

38. During last year, 91,103 OBC students were given stipend/scholarship under various schemes like post-matric scholarship/pre-matric scholarship, etc. The State has been requesting the Government of India for amendment of the Constitution to provide for reservation in educational institutions & employment for the Other Backward Classes. I once again urge the Government of India to take initiative for the same.

39. Our Government has always been focusing attention for the development of religious minorities and have taken several steps for infrastructure development in minority concentrated areas along with educational and economic development schemes. During 2012-13, pre-matric scholarship was sanctioned to 27,074 minority students and post-matric scholarship was sanctioned to 2,612 minority students. Special incentives were given to minority Girls and Boys from Class-VI to VIII. Begum Rokeya Award for topper Muslim Girl students of Madhyamik and Higher Secondary Examination was instituted. A total of 2000 minority families were assisted at the rate of Rs.10,000/- for setting up small business, Goatery, purchase of milch cow, etc. under the scheme of development of minority villages.

40. The Government has identified 124 villages and 27 Nagar Panchayat Wards having minority population of 20% or more for overall development. Construction of Minority Girls' Hostel for College students at Dharmanagar has started. The construction of State Haj Bhawan will be started during 2013-14 for which the site has already been selected.

41. I take this opportunity to request the Government of India to suitably amend the Constitution of India for providing reservation in educational institutions and employment for religious minorities. I also urge for implementation of Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission and Sachar Committee recommendations.

42. For all-round development of the State, improvement of road connectivity particularly in rural areas is a pre-requisite. The State Government has drawn up a plan to connect all the habitations which have not yet been connected with 'all weather roads' along with provision for maintenance of roads and bridges regularly. During the year 2012-13, about 325 KM metalling and carpeting, besides 61 RCC Bridges, 26 Box and Slab Culverts have been completed. The work on about 80 RCC Bridges is in progress. It is proposed for improvement of 150 KM of roads during 2013-14 besides laying emphasis for maintenance of the created

45. There has been progress in the construction of Railway lines from Agartala to Sabroom with the entire land required for the Railway line between Agartala and Udaipur having been handed over to the Railway authorities. The Government has taken all steps to provide land in Udaipur-Sabroom sector. It is expected that the work on Agartala-Akhaura Rail line will start shortly. I urge the Ministry of Railways, Government of India to expedite and complete the work of conversion to Broad Gauge from Lumding within the time schedule. I also urge the Government of India to upgrade Agartala Airport so as to be eligible to be declared as International Airport and also operationalize Kamalpur and Kailashahar Airports. The Road, Rail, Air and Waterways connectivity with Bangladesh will boost trade for the benefit of both the countries. Hence, I urge Government of India to take steps in this regard.

46. Construction of one Inter-State Bus Terminus at Dharmanagar is going on in full swing and is expected to be operational by July, 2013. The construction of a new Motor Stands at Kanchanpur, Sonamura and Khumulwng is nearing completion. The construction of Bus Terminus at Nagarjala, Agartala has started.

47. Industries and Commerce Department is facilitating promotion of trade, planned development of infrastructure, value addition to local resources, incentives to Investors and boosting entrepreneurial skills as well as promotion of self-employment. Significant progress has been made in developing industrial infrastructure. Infrastructure available at Land Custom Stations for trade with Bangladesh is being upgraded. One Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre has been set up at Dharmanagar and steps have been taken to set up IIDCs in other districts. Locally available resources like rubber, bamboo, tea, natural gas and fruits and vegetables are identified as priority sectors. Bamboo Mission has made significant impact on Agarbati sticks making. Under Swabalamban programme, incentives and support is being given to first generation entrepreneurs. The provision for Swabalamban which was Rs. 375 lakhs during 2012-13 is proposed to be raised to Rs. 500 lakhs during 2013-14 to generate increased self-employment opportunities.

48. It is indeed a matter of satisfaction that the Government of Tripura has signed an MoU with ONGC and Chambal Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. to enter into a Joint Venture with the Holding Company of ONGC and Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. for setting up Gas based Fertilizer Plant in Tripura. In addition to the 12 ITIs in the State, 4 more new ITIs

are being set up. Steps are being taken for construction of a bridge over Feni River and efforts are also on for operationalizing Border Haats for which consent has been received from the Bangladesh Government.

49. The State has a present generating capacity of 106 MW. To meet the demand, construction of one Unit of 21 MW GT Set at Rokhia is in progress and is scheduled to be completed in July, 2013. The first unit of 363.3 MW of Palatana Power Project of OTPC is likely to be ready for commissioning by June, 2013. For evacuation of power, a power hub of 132/400 KV Sub-station at Suryamaninagar is being constructed and is expected to be fully completed by June, 2013. The Monarchak Power Project of NEEPCO is making good progress. TSECL and the State Government have taken several steps for construction of 132 KV Transmission lines in different parts of the State. TSECL has covered 98% of the consumers under the Computerized Energy Billing System.

50. Rural electrification continues to be a thrust area to improve power connectivity in the interior areas. Electrification of 210 un-electrified habitations has been taken up during 2012-13 and is progressing well. The work of extension of HT/LT line in remote areas particularly in tribal areas

is in progress. To improve the transmission system, works are in progress under R-APDRP scheme.

51. A good number of programmes have been taken up by the State Government for preventing mal-nutrition and offering social security. The State would continue to play a vigilant role in this direction. The major achievements during the year 2012-13 include coverage of 3,09,723 children and 86,198 mothers under ICDS scheme through 9911 Anganwadi Centres. Under Social Security Pension Schemes, 2,51,043 beneficiaries have been covered. Five new Pension Schemes for the workers of un-organized sector, namely Motor Shramik, Laundry Workers, Barber Workers, Handloom Workers and Fishermen Workers have been launched during last year.

52. A Toll Free Women Help Line telephone No.1091 has been operationalized. Process for appointment of 500 Physically Challenged Persons in different Departments was initiated. Rehabilitation grant for over-aged inmates of Homes have been enhanced from Rs.20,000/- to Rs.50,000/-. During the year 2013-14, restructured ICDS programme would be implemented in Mission mode. Twenty two Social Pension Schemes would continue to be implemented with increased number of

beneficiaries. The Department would undertake Training Programme for Women for generating sustainable incomes through different income generating activities. Training programmes would also be taken up for physically challenged persons to make them economically employable for their self-sustainability.

53. Tripura once occupied as low as 13th position in the all India literacy rate. The State has been able to reach the 4th position in literacy as a result of the untiring efforts of the Government. The State Government has taken up Adult Literacy Programme in a comprehensive way to make all the illiterates aged up to 50 years in the State literate by end of August, 2013. Emphasis is being laid for the new learners numbering about 82,000 in the 15-50 age groups for achieving this goal.

54. Development of human resources is of prime importance and the Government has been taking all steps for realizing the goal of Education for All. During 2012-13, thirty four new Primary Schools were established while up-gradation of 2 Jr. Basic Schools as Sr. Basic Schools, 9 Sr. Basic Schools into High Schools and 11 High Schools to Higher Secondary Schools was done. Science stream was opened in 10 Higher Secondary Schools. Large scale up-gradation of infrastructure was taken up in respect

of 78 Schools. It is proposed to set up 30 new Primary Schools, upgrade 25 Jr. Basic Schools and 5 High Schools and open science stream in 10 Higher Secondary Schools mainly located in SC/ST inhabited areas during 2013-14. Improvement of basic infrastructure in existing schools and Madrassas will also be given priority. It is proposed to set up 2 Residential Schools one at 23 Mile Point of Chawmanu Block of Dhalai District and another at Santipur (Bhandarima) in Dasda Block of North Tripura district. The dropout rate at elementary stage has reduced from 12.62% in 2008-09 to 8.50% in 2012-13 due to different interventions under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal Programme.

55. In order to promote Kokborak and other tribal languages, a Directorate of Kokborak and other Minority Languages was set up and started functioning during 2012-13 to take special care for protection and development of Kokborak and other minority languages in the State.

56. The State Government is continuing its efforts to improve the access to quality Higher Education in the State. As many as 6 new General Degree Colleges have been set up during the year 2012-13 in six Sub-divisions. Infrastructure in existing Colleges has been developed by construction of new academic and administrative blocks. New subjects in Pass course as

well as Honours course have been introduced in the Colleges while Science Course has been introduced in Bir Bikram Memorial College. As a result of these efforts, there has been significant increase in enrolment in the Degree Colleges. Smart Classrooms equipped with audio-visual and internet facilities have been set up in the Colleges to ensure better teaching and learning facilities. Computer Training Course combined with Spoken English Course have been introduced in 6 new General Degree Colleges in collaboration with NIELIT.

57. The State Government is also attaching priority to technical education. A project proposal for development of infrastructure of Tripura Institute of Technology (TIT) at a cost of Rs.115.10 Cr has been submitted to the MoHRD, Government of India. Construction of building for new Polytechnic at Udaipur in Gumti District has been completed and necessary steps are being taken to start the College from next academic session. Construction work of other Polytechnic institutes at Ambassa, Dharmanagar and Khumulwng are in full swing. The proposal for setting up Indian Institute of Information Technology in PPP mode in the State has been sanctioned by the Government of India. Construction of new building for Government Law College and Institute of Advanced Studies in Education is nearing completion. Construction works for new College of

Teacher's Education at Kumarghat is in progress. The State Museum at Agartala will be shifted to Old Assembly Building.

58. During 2012-13, the Youth Affairs & Sports Department has taken up several major projects for development of infrastructure for games and sports in the State such as upgradation of Swami Vivekananda Maidan for second phase, upgradation of NSRCC (construction of indoor Gymnasium), construction of sports buildings for different sports activities like Judo, Weight Lifting, Yoga, Table Tennis; up-gradation of Regional College of Physical Education at Panisagar, development of playground with earth filling and drainage system of RCPE, District Sports Complex at Udaipur and Kailashahar, etc. Up-gradation of Sports infrastructure at Dasarath Deb State Sports Complex would be done in collaboration with ONGC. A proposal for construction of District Sports Complex in the newly created 4 districts at Bishramganj, Dharmanagar, Khowai and Belonia would be posed to Government of India for sanction.

59. It is indeed happy to note that Smti. Saini Das from our State won Gold medal in Asian School Chess Championship held in Sri Lanka and Bronze medal in Commonwealth Chess Championship held at Chennai. It is a matter of pride that Smti. Dipa Karmakar won 5 Gold medals in Senior

National Gymnastics and 5 Gold medals at Women Sports Competition. Football School Team under 17 years (Boys) won the Championship in National School Level Competition.

60. Provision of health care is the priority of the State Government. During 2012-13, Post Graduate Degree Courses were started in 13 disciplines in Agartala Government Medical College. Tripura Medical College & Dr. BRAM Teaching Hospital has been granted permission to start PG Course in four disciplines. New Doctors' Hostel with 140 seats in AGMC has been completed. Construction works of New Teaching Hospital Block-I of AGMC is making good progress. A Gamma Camera has been commissioned at Cancer Hospital. Up-gradation works of IGM Hospital having bed provision of 327 is nearing completion. Construction works of 100 bedded Hospitals at Santirbazar and Teliamura are making good progress. A total of 1,15,531 patients got the benefit of Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana (RSBY) Scheme up to December, 2012 from 35 Health Institutions and 22 more Health institutions will be brought under the scheme during the current year.

61. Construction works of New Teaching Hospital Block-II of AGMC will be started during 2013-14. A Central Blood Bank will be constructed at GB

Pant Hospital Complex. State Government has submitted a Project proposal to Government of India for setting up a Super Specialty Hospital in Agartala Government Medical College, Agartala. Construction works of G+5 Building at Cancer Hospital will be started during 2013-14. Construction works of G+7 Western Block, Administrative Block, Nursing Training Institute and Central Kitchen, Canteen and Laundry will be started in IGM Hospital. Construction works of 100 bedded Hospitals at Kanchanpur and Amarapur will also be started during 2013-14. Regional Nursing College will be set up at Hapania.

62. Provision of Primary Health Care and Preventive Medicine is of utmost importance. The Government has been implementing the National Rural Health Mission. The Government is committed to having one health sub-centre in each Gram Panchayat/Village except those villages/GPs having PHC or CHC. This requires 1008 Sub-Centres to cover all the Villages/GPs. At present, 801 Gram Panchayats / Villages are covered by Health Sub-centre while 207 Health Sub-Centres are under construction. During the year, 6 Primary Health Centres (PHC) were upgraded as Community Health Centres (CHC) and 4 more Community Health Centres at Srinagar, Chawmanu, Kadamtala and Anandabazar have been taken up for construction. 10 PHCs were constructed during 2012-13. Under the

Tele-Medicine Facility, 14 Hospitals are connected with tertiary hospital namely G.B., IGM and Cancer Hospitals.

63. Tripura prides itself in having one of the most vibrant Panchayati Raj System in the country. To strengthen capacity building efforts for the PRI Representatives and functionaries, one Panchayati Raj Training Institute (PRTI) has been made functional at Udaipur. Two more PRTIs are coming up shortly at Kumarghat and Ambassa. The State has proposed one PRTI in each district of the State. The Government of India has awarded Panchayat Shasasktikaran Puraskar for 2011-12 to Killa BAC, Atharabhola Village Committee under Killa Block and Jirania Gram Panchayat under Jirania Block as mark of recognition of empowerment and strengthening of PRI / ADC bodies. The State has also been honoured with the first prize by the Government of India with e-Panchayat Puraskar for 2011-12 for effective implementation of e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project in the State.

64. Tripura with its active PRI and other local bodies has been a pioneer in implementation of various rural development programmes during the year 2012-13. The State could utilize 97 % of the available fund generating 516.55 lakhs mandays under MGNREGA. Tripura retained the record of

being first in the country by generating 87 average mandays as against the national average of 39 mandays. Wage rate under MGNREGA has been increased from Rs.124/- to Rs.134/- with effect from 1.4.2013.

65. It is proposed to construct 13,772 houses under Indira Yawas Yojana (IAY) during the current year. Self-Help Groups have become an instrument of empowerment particularly of the women groups. During the year 2012-13, 1521 new SHGs have been formed. The existing SGSY scheme is to be restructured into National Rural Livelihood Mission as per the decision of the Government of India and accordingly Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission Society has been constituted. The Programme would be implemented in three districts of Dhalai, Gumti and South Tripura in the first phase.

66. Significant achievements have been made in Urban Development during 2012-13 by providing housing facilities to 458 no. of Urban Poor under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme at Teiamura, Ranibazar, Belonia, Sonamura and Udaipur Towns. Construction of dwelling units for urban poor at Joynagar (192 Nos.) and Radhanagar (192) Nos) of Agartala are also in good progress. Under JNNURM, Improvement of 5 Km road and Storm Water Drain of Belonia, Kailashahar,

Kamalpur have been completed during 2012-13. The work of Sewerage Project of North Zone of Agartala under JNNURM(UIG) is under implementation. Work of 55 KM Sewerage Line, 5 Nos. Pumping Stations are completed and construction of Sewerage Treatment Plan is in good progress.

67. Town Hall at Dharmangar and Amarpur have been completed while construction of Town Hall at Kamalpur, Udaipur and Sabroom are in progress. Construction of Town Hall at Sonamura has started and work of Kailashahar Town Hall will be started shortly. Procurement of additional vehicles and equipments is in progress for Solid Waste Management and Transportation System improvement in Agartala Municipal Council area. Works for Solid Waste Management at Debendrachandranagar for AMC has already been started. The State Government is implementing the Tripura Urban Employment Programme (TUEP) for the last four years to provide wage employment to the needy in the urban areas. The programme would be continued.

68. The construction of new Rabindra Bhawan is in its final stage and the construction of Cultural Complex at Khowai is in progress. The Art Gallery in City Centre and Nazrul Kala Keshtra have been made functional.

The work on construction of Nazrul Kala Keshtra Phase-II has been completed.

69. Tourism has immense potential in Tripura. In order to give further impetus to the tourism, a Directorate of Tourism is proposed to be set up during the current year and a Hostel Management Institute would also be set up at Anandanagar. A new hotel will be set up in Joint Venture between ITDC and Tripura Tourism Development Corporation at Agartala.

70. The Science, Technology & Environment Department has been taking up awareness camps and promotion of renewable energy sources. During the year 2012-13 under the remote village electrification programme, 142 families have been covered with Solar home lighting system. The Department proposes to set up a digital planetarium during 2013-14. It is also proposed to install 250KW Solar Power Plant. For setting up Vigyan Gram (Science City), an amount of Rs.4.50 Cr has been received from the State Plan during 2012-13. The Government of India in the Ministry of DoNER was approached with revised DPR for sanction of the project under NLCPR which is awaited.

71. Under the National e-Governance Plan, 145 Common Service Centres (CSC) were established across the State to cater to various G2C and B2C services to citizens in their locality. The State Wide Area Network (SWAN) has already been established with 66 Point of Presence (PoPs) across the State which is connected to the Block Headquarters. A Project for "Horizontal Extension of SWAN" has been initiated to connect other Departmental offices to enhance possibility of providing more e-Governance services. A State Data Centre has also been established to act as repository of various Departmental and Government of India's applications. The State-of-the-Art Technology Park is under construction.

72. Tripura has a good record for protection of rights and interests of the workers. During the year 2012-13, minimum wages have been revised in 18 Scheduled employments. During the year, the Government has introduced Variable Dearness Allowance based on Consumer Price Index for Scheduled employments to ensure minimum wages at revised rates based on inflation to the workers. Under RSBY, 5,06,665 families have been enrolled and issued smart cards providing for cashless health care facilities to the families of the unorganized workers belonging to BPL category. Under Asanghatita Sramik Sahayika Prakalpa (ASSP), 69,378 workers have so far been enrolled. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble

Members that the contribution of the Government under the scheme is proposed to be revised from Rs.25/- to Rs.50/- per month as a matching contribution. In the ESI Dispensary, 77,294 patients received treatment out of which 21,462 patients received treatment during last year.

73. The 4 new districts, 6 new Sub-divisions and 5 new Blocks opened during 2011-12 has been very well received by the people and helped in effective delivery of services. It is proposed to take up construction of new buildings for 2 new Sub-divisions during the current year. During 2012-13, 1600.35 acres of Government Khas land was allotted in favour of 7443 both landless and homeless (bothless) families belonging to BPL families. The allotment of land to BPL families will continue.

74. Online technology driven Revenue Administration has been introduced throughout the State. Revisional Cadastral Survey Maps have been digitized and uploaded on the website. Online registrations have been introduced in all the Sub-Registry Offices. Information on the execution of deeds is conveyed to the transferee on acceptance through SMS. The Government proposes to take up computerization of all the Tehsils during the current year. During the last year 350 projects were taken up in 25

border blocks with an outlay of Rs.4219.78 lakh under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) to bridge critical infrastructure gaps.

75. The general law and order situation in Tripura has been very peaceful. The security forces should be complimented for the peaceful conduct of election to the Legislative Assembly. During last year, Tripura Police has achieved considerable success in controlling insurgency in the State with less number of incidents and no civilian casualties. Though traffic accidents remain a matter of concern, strong emphasis had been laid on strengthening the traffic arrangement with modern tools and equipment for speed control and traffic management. An All Women Police Station at R.K.Pur was inaugurated while construction of the Kailashahar Women Police Station is under progress. A new women police station for West Agartala Women PS has also been sanctioned by the Government and is likely to be functional very shortly. Tripura is one of the premier States to continuously strive for higher representation of women in Police Department. The Community Policing Programme namely PRAYAS is further being strengthened to improve awareness among the people, especially regarding prevention of domestic violence and crime against women.

76. The construction of Fire Services Headquarters at Agartala and Fire Station building at Sonamura, Bishalgarh, Kalyanpur, Salema, Kumarghat and Kanchanpur are completed while the Fire Service Station at Capital Complex is in progress. The Fire Department have procured 32 metre High Hydraulic Platform during the year. It is proposed to open 3 new Fire Stations during 2013-14.

77. The construction of Central model prison at Bishalgarh, Longtarai Valley Sub-Jail and Gandacherra Sub-Jail are nearing completion. The construction of Sub-Jail at Sonamura has started.

78. Services rendered by the Jawans in defence of the country and their supreme sacrifices are always to be remembered. The monthly maintenance allowance for WW-II Veterans have been enhanced from Rs.1500/- to Rs.3,000/- and for widows of WW-II from Rs.900/- to Rs.2000/- per month with effect from 1st April, 2012. Rajya Sainik Board has been upgraded as the Directorate of Sainik Welfare last year.

79. It is indeed a matter of great joy that Tripura has a new full-fledged High Court which has started functioning from 23rd March, 2013. The

infrastructure of the Tripura Law Training Institute is almost ready to start functioning. The Lok Ayukta has started functioning in the State.

80. Taxes play most vital role in mobilization of financial resources for development work. The Government took number of initiatives including introduction of electronic payment of taxes, facility of filling tax return online and generation of permits online during 2012-13. The steps have been welcomed and appreciated by businessmen and their associations. Considering demands of Trade and Merchant Association, and increasing border trade with Bangladesh, I propose to open two new Charge offices of Taxes Organization - one at Khowai and other at Sonamura during the current financial year.

81. Mr. Speaker Sir, I shall now present proposals of Receipts and Expenditure in my Budget Estimates. Before proceeding further, I would like to first give details of Revised Estimates for 2012-13.

82. In the Revised Estimates of 2012-13 the State's Own Tax and Non-tax revenue has been projected at Rs.1033 Cr and Rs.179.25 Cr respectively. In the Budget Estimates of 2012-13, the target for collection

of State's Own Tax and Non-tax revenue was Rs.893.41 Cr and Rs.178.34 Cr respectively.

83. Receipts from State's share of Central taxes has been kept at Rs.1493.18 Cr in RE as against the BE of Rs.1380.0 Cr for 2012-13. The total Receipts in RE has been kept at Rs.8476.79 Cr as against the BE of Rs.7970.14 Cr for 2012-13. The Total expenditure in RE 2012-13 will be Rs.8282.37 Cr which includes Rs.4702.46 Cr of Non Plan Expenditure and Rs.2821.21 Cr Expenditure of State Plan.

84. Now, I would like to highlight about the Receipts and Expenditure projected in Budget Estimates of 2013-14. The collection of State's Own Tax Revenue is projected at Rs.1184 Cr in Budget Estimates with a growth rate of 14.62% over the Revised Estimates of last year. The collection of State's Non Tax Revenue is projected at Rs.220 Cr in BE 2013-14 with a growth rate of 22.74% over Revised Estimate of last year. The Receipts from share of Central taxes have been projected at Rs.1777 Cr in Budget Estimates with an increase of 19.01% over the Revised Estimates of last Year.

85. State will get Rs 835.00 Cr under Non-Plan Gap Grant during 2013-14 as against the amount of Rs 1030.00 Cr received during 2012-13. The reduction is due to the under assessment of state's requirement by XIII Finance Commission. The central transfers under Non-Plan and Plan heads have been anticipated at Rs 4300.68 Cr in Budget Estimates 2013-14.

86. The overall Total Receipts in Budget Estimate 2013-14 will be Rs.9211.10 Cr. The gross borrowing is projected at Rs.880 Cr in Budget Estimates which includes Open Market Borrowing of Rs.650 Cr and negotiated loan of Rs.150 Cr.

87. The Total Expenditure under Budget Estimates 2013-14 is projected at Rs.9416.49 Cr with a growth of 13.69% over the Revised Estimates of 2012-13. This includes Non Plan Expenditure of Rs.5604.39 Cr. An amount of Rs.3069.55 Cr has been kept under the State Plan with an increase of 8.81% over the Revised Estimates of 2012-13.

The position in brief is: (Amount in Rs. in Cr)

(A) Revenue Account

1. Receipts	8134.68
2. Expenditure	6765.40
3. Surplus (A1 – A2)	1369.28

(B) Capital Account

1. Receipts from loans & others (including public account & OB)	1076.42
2. Disbursements	2651.09
3. Deficit (B1 – B2)	1574.67

(C) Total Receipts: (A1)+(B1) 9211.10

(D) Total Expenditure: (A2)+(B2) 9416.49

Budget Deficit (C – D) 205.39

88. 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 allocation particularly under State Plan duly keeping in view the targets under the FRBM Act. There will be a Budget Deficit of Rs. 205.39 Cr which I intend to cover by means of implementing austerity measures and mobilizing additional revenue throughout the year.

89. The policies, programmes and initiatives announced in the first Budget of the newly constituted Left Front Government will take forward the momentum of growth and development besides continuing the welfare measures with greater vigor.

90. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with these words I commend the Budget Proposals for 2013-14 for consideration and approval of this August House.
