



BUDGET SPEECH

2017-18

By

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FINANCE MINISTER

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA

20th February, 2017

Mr. Speaker Sir,

1. I rise to present the Budget for the year 2017-18.
2. Our Government has been working tirelessly for the poor and downtrodden, tried to improve governance and taken several policies that have paved the way for inclusive, balanced and harmonious development of the State despite severe financial constraints faced by the State Government due to undesirable measures and steps taken by the Government of India.
3. Growth and economic activity in the world is still sluggish. The global growth is now estimated by some international agencies, at 3.1% in 2016. As per estimates, the growth rates in 2017 for the advanced economies may be 3.4% and emerging market and developing countries may accelerate to 3.6%.
4. Despite India being one of the vast countries, the projected growth rate is far below country's potential and expectations. The reasons for slower growth are disruptive policies of Central Government like abolition of Planning Commission, demonetization, lack of adequate investment in rural infrastructure, backward areas etc. It was estimated that demonetization alone has reduced the growth rate during the year and next year anywhere between 0.5% to 1.5% of GDP.
5. The Economic Survey 2016-17 indicates decline in farm incomes, social disruption in cash-intensive sectors, massive job losses and a sharp fall in demand for goods and services resulting in deceleration in economic growth. The total size of the budget has come down to 12.7 percent of GDP this year

from 13.4 percent of GDP last year (Revised Estimates). The total revenue receipts have come down to 9 percent of GDP in Budget Estimates of 2017-18 from 9.4 percent of GDP in Revised Estimates of 2016-17.

6. The figures of Revised Estimates 2016-17 of Union Budget indicate that there is marginal increase in overall devolution of States' Share in Taxes over the Budget Estimates 2015-16. Such minimal increase in devolution of central taxes to the State Government is expected to disturb the development goals of the State Governments.

7. The infrastructure bottlenecks are the primary barriers in the development of the North Eastern States. However, no additional funds have been provided for the development of North East Region. **I request the Central Government to consider proper funding to take care of the requirements under State specific development needs, revenue deficit, etc.**

8. Mr. Speaker Sir, during the year, the State has been recognized in several fronts for its achievements in governance like previous years. Some of them include: **"Most Improved Small State in E Governance"** by a leading national media house. Secondly, Tripura was also awarded second prize by the Government of India for **reducing Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) from 26 to 21**. Thirdly, Tripura has been ranked by the Government of India as the best State in North East for **"Ease of Doing Business"**.

Agriculture

9. Speaker Sir, State Government has taken special initiatives for Planned Development of Agriculture in the State since 2000-01 through a long term Perspective Plan. The benefits of the Plan have resulted in increase of food grain production from 5.13 lakh metric ton during 1999-2000 to 8.23 lakh metric ton in 2015-16, which was 61,000 metric tons more than 2014-15. Due to timely supply of Agri.-Inputs to the farmers during 2016-17, the anticipated food grain production is estimated at about 9.35 lakh metric ton.

10. About 1,00,000 hectares area is anticipated to be covered under "System of Rice Intensification" popularly known as "SRI" during the current financial year. Out of total targeted "SRI" area, 60,000 hectares area would be covered under Hybrid Paddy as against 40,269 hectares of 2015-16 for increasing production, productivity and profitability of the farmers.

11. Major works in progress include cultivation of Hybrid Paddy and HYV Paddy through System of Rice Intensification (SRI), Installation of Small Bore Deep Tube Wells (SBDTW), Establishment of Farmers' Knowledge Centre, Construction of Cold Storages and Fertilizer Go-downs etc.

12. The Action Plan for utilizing seasonal fallow land under Crop Diversification programme has also been implemented with greater thrust and it is anticipated that about 20,000 hectares area would be brought under cultivation by pulse and oilseed crops during the current financial year as against the achievement of 15,676 hectares in 2015-16.

13. To sustain the Development of Agriculture in Tripura, major programmes like Cultivation of Hybrid paddy through System of Rice Intensification (SRI), Expansion of Pulses & Oilseeds cultivation in RoFR land, Crop Diversification Programme in seasonal fallow land, Installation of Small Bore Deep Tube Wells (SBDTW), Establishment of Farmers' Knowledge Centre, Construction of Cold Storages and Fertilizer Go-downs etc. are proposed to be implemented during the year 2017-18.

Horticulture

14. Horticulture has gained commercial tone in the recent years and it is an important component of Agriculture, having very significant share in the economy of the country.

15. During 2017-18, it has been decided to bring 4400 ha of area under horticultural plantation with fund support of MGNREGA. This will benefit 8800 nos of growers. 2 nos vegetables pockets in nontraditional area per Agri/Horti Sub-Division per season covering 320 ha will be undertaken benefiting 1600 nos of vegetables growers. Besides, 2000 ha area will be brought under cultivation of Hybrid vegetables. 3000 nos of growers associated with cultivation of horticultural crops will be provided necessary training for Human Resource Development. 1300 nos of Power tillers will be distributed among the horticultural growers. 900 nos of new water harvesting structures will be created all over the state for extending irrigation facilities to horticultural plantation

16. A massive programme has been undertaken for production of Potato Tuberlets using True Potato Seeds (TPS) through cooperative farming system involving Tripura Horticulture Corporation Ltd.

Animal Resources Development

17. With a view to achieve sustainable growth and self-sufficiency in animal origin food- milk, meat and egg, State will continue to take steps such as artificial insemination, heifer rearing scheme, induction of improved Indian & crossbred cows/heifers, block level brooder houses, backyard poultry, pig breeding unit under Forest Rights Act, fodder cultivation and veterinary health care measures viz preventive vaccination, of livestock and birds, animal health camps, fertility management camps, skill development trainings, awareness programmes etc

Fisheries

18. In 2017-18, implementation of major fish production oriented schemes would continue with emphasis on popularizing high production technologies in fish production, feed and seed support for optimum increase in productivity, promoting the adoption of technique of multiple harvesting and multiple stocking in culture, facilitating local availability of quality fish seed in remote areas, increased emphasis on production of "Stunted fingerlings" for stocking of all culture ponds, diversification of aqua culture and qualitative improvement of fish seed and ranching in open water bodies so that fish production cross 76000 ton target and per capita availability of fish @ 19.90 kg is achieved.

Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs

19. Speaker Sir, Tripura is the first State in North East Region, to have successfully implemented the National Food Security Act (NFSA) w.e.f.1st Sept, 2015 covering around 25 lakh beneficiary population which is continuing by providing rice at the rate of Rs.2.00 per kg. instead of Rs.3.00 per kg. as fixed by the Govt. of India for which an annual subsidy of Rs. 17 crore is borne from the State Exchequer. Other families not covered under NFSA are also supplied rice (APL) under PDS at subsidized rate.

20. In order to improve the delivery mechanism of the food and civil supplies department, online Store Management will be introduced in the year 2017-18.

21. In 2017-18, to improve and augment the POL availability in the state, the Dharmanagar POL terminal will be linked to the broad gauge rail network. FCI also been impressed to use the Dharmanagar and Kumarghat rail sidings for catering to the northern portion of the state. The State Government is facilitating IOCL to come up with bigger storage facility at Sekerkote which along with new godowns for food storage to be set up by FCI will augment the availability of these items. The state government is forever trying to improve the LPG availability within the state through close coordination with the IOC. A new bottling plant will be taken up at Bodhjungnagar.

22. The possibility of bringing food and fuel products through Bangladesh will also be continually explored by the State Government.

23. The prices of commodities are increasing in the country. Therefore, **I propose to increase subsidy for oil and pulses @ Rs. 15/- per month from Rs 50/- to Rs 65/-to benefit all the card holders and which will cost the Government Rs.9.97 crores more annually which is payable w.e.f.1.4.2017**

Revenue

24. During the year 2017-18, the Department has targeted to allot land to 3873 people, out of which ST - 968, OBC - 626, SC - 1999 and Minorities – 280. Various BADP works in 32 Border Blocks will be achieved under 8 Districts. An amount of Rs. 6900.00 lakh has been kept for BADP during the year 2017-18.

25. During 2017-18, it is proposed under Disaster Management, reconstruction of damaged houses in last earthquakes, Strengthening of Emergency Operation Centres at State and District levels, Procurement of critical equipments for strengthening response of important line departments and Organising Incident Response System Trainings at state and district levels. Bru (Reang) Migrants - Unless repatriation is completed, relief to the Bru migrants / Refugees will be extended as usual.

Forest:

26. Forest constitutes the most vital natural resource of our State. Their health is of paramount importance to maintain the fertility of soil and to maintain the flow of rivers and streams. Our Government continues to attach great significance for the conservation of forest and biodiversity and harnessing

their potential for providing livelihoods to the rural people. Our Government is encouraging initiatives for upgradation of tourist infrastructure in wildlife sanctuaries and other forest areas under the "Swadesh Darshan" Scheme to cater to the expected increased arrival of tourists.

Panchayats

27. Strengthening the villages by empowering the panchayats has been a high priority to our Government. Majlishpur Gram Panchayat under Jirania Block has been awarded "Rashtriya Gourav Gram Sabha Puraskar" (RGGSP) and Paschim Tripura Zilla Parishad, Nalchar Panchayat Samiti, Uttar Majlishpur GP and Krishnanagar GP under Jirania RD Block have been awarded "Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (PSP)" by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India. We have taken up the exercise of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) through Participatory Planning Process in the State.

Cooperatives

28. An Action-Plan is being prepared by the Department for overall Development of Co-Operatives in the State, to be put in place during 2017-18. Our Government will extend all possible assistance in this regard.

29. During 2017-18, the Department is proposing to open one 100 seated Women Hostel at State Co-operative Union complex, AD Nagar.

30. As of now, as many as 8 Generic Medicine Counters have been opened in Dist. Level Hospitals and two more Counters are getting ready to start shortly. These counters are serving the common people to provide medicines at

low prices. Now about 220 types of Generic medicines are available, including for Diabetes, BP, Cancer etc. diseases.

Drinking Water & Sanitation

31. During 2017-18, construction of 8 ongoing Surface Water Treatment Plants, 75 Ground Water Treatment Plants and 150 Iron Removal Plants, Sinking of 250 Deep Tube Wells, commissioning of ongoing 230 Deep Tube Wells, Sinking & Commissioning 250 of Small Bore Tube Wells and 15 Innovative schemes will be taken up. These would enable conversion of all 23 slipped back habitations to partially or fully covered status and 825 other partially covered habitations to fully covered status.

32. The State has also taken up the mission of achieving Open Defecation Free status for all 1178 Gram Panchayats and Village Councils of the State as per base line survey of 2012.

33. During 2017-18, construction of 55,363 new IHHL for eligible households above poverty line and 100 Community Sanitary Complexes from SBM-G funds and 52,815 new IHHL units for BPL households from MGNREGA funds are expected to be taken up. These would enable conversion of all 23 slipped back habitations to partially or fully covered status and 825 other partially covered habitations to fully covered status.

Rural Development

34. The objective of rural development is to implement poverty alleviation programmes with the aim to improve infrastructure development for rural growth

and eradication of rural poverty. Our Government will continue this endeavor with all sincerity in building new houses, pucca toilets and rural infrastructure and rural livelihoods.

35. Under MGNREGA, a Labour Budget of 6.07 crore Persondays has been proposed to the Government of India for 2017-18. During the current financial year, target of Rural Housing under PMAY (G) is 23,730. It is expected that 25,000 Rural Housing will be sanctioned under PMAY (G) during 2017-18. Under NRLM, target for formation of SHGs during 2017-18 was 1961 SHGs, out of which achievement till 31st January, 2017 was 1540 SHGs. An Action Plan for formation of 1500 SHGs, 70 village level federations has been prepared and submitted to the Government of India for 2017-18.

36. Under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), a programme for skill development of 5474 rural youths during 2017-18 has also been prepared. Under National Rurban Mission (NRuM), 5(five) Rurban clusters have already been taken up for development. During 2017-18, component wise works as per approved Integrated Cluster Action Plan (ICAP) will be taken-up.

Urban Development

37. During 2017-18, construction of 5 ongoing Shelters for urban homeless under NULM are targeted to be completed. Rejuvenation and beautification of water bodies sanctioned under SDS will be completed in 2018. Providing safe drinking water and increasing green cover will be taken up under AMRUT. Coverage of 19 ULBs with LED street lights is in progress and will be completed

in 2017-18. Skill training and placement under NULM is also in progress and initiative will be taken to cover all the ULBs in 2017-18.

38. Since low power consumption of LEDs leads to significant energy savings and have also very long lifetimes, 19 Urban Local Bodies have signed MoU with Energy Efficiency Services Limited, a Govt. of India enterprise, for conversion of traditional street lights to Light Emitting Device lights. Housing for all was launched for providing houses to all eligible beneficiaries. Construction of 42,896 dwelling units for the urban poor is in progress under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Safe drinking water and sanitation will also be extended to all inhabitants of Urban Local Bodies.

39. Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India has selected Agartala as a Smart City. An SPV has been formed to implement the Mission as per guidelines of Government of India.

Tribal Welfare

40. Socio-economic, educational and cultural development of Scheduled Tribes has been top most priority of the State Government. Various steps are being taken for creating educational infrastructure, skill development, rehabilitation of surrendered militants and for promoting and preserving the culture and linguistic heritage of Scheduled Tribes.

41. During 2017-8, ST students will be provided with financial assistance under various schemes like Pre-Matric/Post-Matric Scholarship, Boarding House Stipend, Supply of Free Text Books, Merit Awards to Meritorious ST students

and Special Coaching in Core Subjects etc. Tripura Scheduled Tribes Co-operative Development Corporation Ltd will provide loans to un-employed tribal youth. The government will also continue to provide skill development to un-employed tribal youths in various trades under skill development programme for livelihoods.

Schedule Castes Welfare

42. During 2017-18, we propose to rehabilitate SC families engaged in sanitation work by providing houses and construction of Market stalls, Market Shed & Training cum-Multipurpose Community Hall in SC dominated areas. Also SC girl students would be considered for sponsoring in B.Sc/GNM nursing courses outside the State. 70 SC boys & girls will be considered to pursue different paramedical courses like BPT, BMRT, BMLT etc. at TIPS, Amtali. 100 SC students would be given coaching for Joint Entrance Examination through reputed & experienced coaching institutions. Skill training on different trades will be imparted to 1740 SC youths during 2017-18.

43. The Government is aware that prices of essential commodities are rising every day. With a view to improve quality of food in the boarding houses for SC/ST students, **I propose to enhance the present rate of boarding house stipend for SC / ST students from the existing rate of Rs.46/- to Rs.55/- per boarder per day for diet including cleaning charges with effect from 1st April, 2017.**

OBC Welfare

44. With the object of upliftment of the socio-economic condition of the OBC people through various Scholarship / Merit Award schemes, our Government has declared Special Development Package for OBCs in the State.

45. During the year 2017-18, Pre-Metric / Post-Metric scholarship/ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Merit Award shall be given to OBC students. Besides, eligible OBC students shall be provided study loans and eligible OBC people will be provided general loans from the Tripura OBC Co-operative Development Corporation Ltd.

Minority Welfare

46. A 28-Point Special Package to ensure overall development of Minorities in Tripura is one of the priorities of the Government.

47. During 2017-18, several developmental activities will be taken up in Minority concentrated areas to improve health, education and economic status of minorities in the state. Soft loans also will be disbursed by the Tripura Minorities Co-operative Development Corporation Ltd. to unemployed youth under income generating schemes during the year 2017-18.

Social Education

48. About 3.49 lakhs children (6 months – 6 years) and 75,000 pregnant and lactating women are enrolled in 9911 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in 56 ICDS Projects. The State Government is constantly striving to further improve the services offered at AWCs.

Elementary Education

49. Speaker Sir, our Government believes in the philosophy of education to all. The state government is taking several measures to improve school infrastructure, recruitment of qualified teachers, re-orientation training to teachers to improve performance of schools and close monitoring of lagging schools in rural areas.

50. During the year 2017-18, main thrust will be on improvement of quality of education. For this purpose, 1793 Under Graduate Teachers and 1457 nos. Graduate Teachers are proposed to be recruited through Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET). Training for Head Teachers for their development of leadership and professional skills, 2 years' Diploma in Elementary Education (D. El. Ed.) through IGNOU to untrained teachers will continue. More new English medium schools will be opened. Schemes like supply of free text books, uniform grant to eligible students will continue. Various Learning Enhancement Programme (LEP) will be implemented for enhancing learning outcome of early grade children. Under innovation head of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), activities like twinning of schools, sensitizing children on Indian culture and heritage, inculcating scientific temper among the children will be undertaken.

Secondary Education

51. During 2017-18, it is our endeavor to introduce Science stream and Commerce stream in 03 nos. H.S Schools each as well as to set-up Technology

Cell for the purpose of ICT based teacher training. Besides these, 20,000 girl students shall be provided with Bi-cycle free of cost and New scheme for Equivalency Programme - Standard V level will be launched.

Higher Education

52. Sir, during 2017-18, construction works to set up two new General Degree Colleges will be taken up at Udaipur and Panisagar. It is proposed to introduce Science streams in Michael Madhusudan Datta College (MMDC), Sabroom, Adwaita MallaBarman Smriti Mahavidyalaya (AMBs), Amarpur. Government also will take up construction of canteen and common room in 11 (eleven) General Degree Colleges under funding from RUSA.

53. Introduction of online admission of students in General Degree Colleges during 2017-18 academic session, Construction works in colleges, vertical expansion of academic building of General Degree College at Teliamura, construction of new academic building at Women's Polytechnic at Hapania, vertical expansion of academic building at General Degree College, Kamalpur would be taken up during 2017-18. Further, steps will be taken up to get accreditation from NAAC for Bir Bikram Memorial College (BBMC), Agartala, Kabi Nazrul Mahavidyalaya, Sonamura.

Youth Affairs & Sports

54. During 2017-18, construction of District Sports Complex, Belonia and Construction of 12 Nos. Block Level Indoor Sports Complexes will also be taken

up under Khelo India Scheme. Rural Sports in Panchayats and ADC Villages will be continued next year also.

Social Welfare

55. Mr. Speaker Sir, implementation of various measures and schemes for welfare, development and security of children, adolescent girls, women, persons with disabilities and senior citizens has been a thrust area of our Government. For ensuring social security to the neediest people, pensions are also being provided to vulnerable sections of the target group. Towards this end, more than 3 lakhs beneficiaries are covered under 28 pensions and social security schemes.

56. The Government of Tripura is committed for welfare of poor people and has been trying to secure decent social security despite severe financial constraints. While the Government of India is reducing their obligation to the poorer sections of society, Government of Tripura has been trying to support them.

57. In this context, **I propose to increase all the existing 28 pension schemes including State contribution to 3 National Pension schemes by Rs. 100 per month per beneficiary. This will approximately involve Rs. 39.00 crores per year and will likely benefit 3,25,000 beneficiaries.**

58. **I also propose to introduce five new pension schemes for Folk Artistes, Carpenters, Blacksmiths, Potters and Harijans (having no govt employee) belonging to Scheduled Caste, at a monthly rate of**

Rs. 700/- per beneficiary. This will cost the Government about Rs. 3.00 crores and will likely benefit 9000 people. The age for these pensions will not be less than 55 and with income of not more than Rs one lac per annum.

Health & Family Welfare

59. Healthcare is top priority for the State Government. During 2017-18, the Government is planning to start dialysis services in 4 District Hospitals namely North, Dhalai, Gomati, South and at IGM Hospital. CT Scan will be started in 3 District Hospitals namely North, Dhalai and Gomati. A New Blood Bank will be made operational in Dhalai District Hospital. New buildings of 100 bedded Sub-Divisional Hospital will be commissioned at Kanchanpur, Teliamura and Amarpur.

60. New building of 50 bedded Sonamura Hospital will be commissioned. Digital X Ray shall be provided at all Sub-Divisional Hospitals. 50 bedded MCH wing will be started at Gomati District Hospital. A Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery Unit with Cath Lab will be established at AGMC & GBP Hospital. Population based screening of all people of more than 30 years of age for Diabetes, Blood Pressure, and 3 Common Cancers (Oral, Breast and Cervical) will be started in Unokoti and South District.

61. New PHCs/CHCs will be started at Lalsingmura , Jampuijala, Rajkandi , Masli, Gachirampara , Taidu , Ramraibari and Srinagar. Efforts will be made to make our PHCs compliant with Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS)

Home

62. Mr. Speaker Sir, the law and order situation has improved noticeably during 2016-17 and at present, it is well under control. There have been no cases of extremists' violence in the State during the year. There has been a considerable decline in general crimes during the 2016-17. The overall registration of crimes came down by 16% during 2016-17 as compared to the previous year.

63. It is noteworthy that the people are whole heartedly co-operating with Police and actively taking part in the community policing programme "PRAYAAS". In the PRAYAAS meetings, valuable inputs are shared between police and public on prevention of Crime Against Women (CAW), Road Traffic Accidents (RTA), awareness programmes against drugs, gambling etc.

64. Tripura is very peaceful State for many years and the critical role played by the State Police, TSR, SPOs & Home Guards is well appreciated. **I propose to increase the ration money for State Police, TSR, Watch and Ward staff of Jails, Fire service personnel and Home Guards by Rs. 100/- from the existing rate of Rs. 700/- per month. I also propose to increase monthly honorarium to SPOs by Rs 500/-from the existing amount of Rs 5156 to Rs 5656 per month from April 2017.**

Home (Jail)

65. During 2017-18, it is proposed to construct Separate Ward for Female Prisoners having children with them in 9 Jails.

Justice Delivery & Judicial Infrastructure

66. To convert the court hearings to be processed in a more efficient manner without any movement of prison-inmates around in a non-secured area, Video Conferencing System, connecting all the five District Courts with Kendriya Sanshodhanagar, Bishalgarh & four other District Jails, have been introduced and made operational.

67. The government has worked very hard in providing better infrastructural facilities to the state judiciary and Bar Associations. Some Major constructions have been taken up during the period include a multistoried (G+ 5) Court Building at Agartala and a new court Buildings at Khowai, Kamalpur and Amarpur.

68. During 2017-18, construction of Court Building and residential quarters at Jawaharnagar, Ambassa, to start new District Judiciary in Dhalai District, construction of District Court Building at Bishramganj under Sipahijala District will be taken up. New Sub-divisional Court at Teliamura Sub-division will be started and construction of new Officers' quarters at Udaipur are likely to be completed.

Public Works

69. Extension of road connectivity to all remaining habitations in the State is a priority of our Government. So far, out of total 8132 habitations, 7142 habitations as per core network, have been connected with all-weather roads and at present works are in progress to connect 537 habitations.

70. During 2017-18, target has been fixed for improvement of 200 km roads, completion of 15 permanent bridges and 21 box/slab culverts. Target has also been fixed to connect 280 new habitations by way of construction of 240 kms road and to upgrade 32 existing roads of length 208 kms.

71. For improvement of National Highways in the State, completion of 16 kms paved shoulder, widening of 96 kms road to 2 lane standard and periodic renewal of 150 kms has been fixed as target. In addition, two RCC bridges, one at Sanicherra on Agartala – Churaibari road and other at Jalai on Kailashahar – Kumarghat road will be taken up.

Power

72. During the year 2017-18, the revenue income of Tripura State Electricity Corporation Ltd. has been projected at Rs.615 Crore in respect of power supply to consumers of the State of Tripura. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Central Government scheme under implementation in the State envisages 97 partially electrified villages, 21 un-electrified habitations and 150 nos, partially electrified habitations during the year 2017-18.

73. 132 KV double circuit Transmission line from Surjyamaninagar Sub-Station to Monarchawk under SPA Fund is targeted for completion during 2017-18. Rokhia and Baramura Gas based Power plants are planned for plant load factor and availability improvement in the range of 67% and 70% availability respectively.

Irrigation

74. The cultivable area in the State is very limited. It is the objective of the Government to utilize entire cultivable land for increasing agricultural production. Out of the total cultivable land area of 2.55 lakh hectares, 1.40 lakh hectares have been targeted for coverage under irrigation.

75. During 2017-18, irrigation coverage of 2940 hectare is targeted through completion of ongoing 31 schemes. 1 no. High Power Lift Irrigation scheme, 2 nos. Lift Irrigation Schemes, 6 nos. Minor Irrigation Storage schemes, 1 no. Diversion scheme, 2 nos. Pick-up- Weir schemes and 64 nos. Deep Tube Wells schemes will also be taken up for completion.

76. During 2017-18 emphasis will be given for construction of minor storage and deep tube well projects in accordance with their feasibility beside completion of various ongoing schemes.

Transport

77. In the year 2017-18, the transport department will intensify its efforts on road safety, among others, through closer regulation of driving schools and opening up of the Institute of Driving Training and Research Centre at Jirania. Improvement of interstate truck terminus at Madhavbari and development of Motor stands will be further taken up. The State government will continue to extend its complete support for the development of railways and aviation sector within the state.

78. In order to address parking problem in Agartala city, integrated multistoried parking complexes will be taken up at old motor stand and Battala TRTC complex. More bus routes will be opened up in Agartala city and greater usage of information technology for traffic management will be made. Information technology will also be used for better regulation and management of the transport sector. The department will also work towards using the inland water transport system of Bangladesh and linking the same to the transport network system of Tripura."

79. Train services between Agartala-Udaipur have been operationalized from 24th January, 2017. Construction work of Railway Line from Udaipur to Sabroom (70.134 km) is going-on in full swing and is expected to be commissioned within 2019. **Speaker Sir, we re-iterate our demand for a Rajdhani Train, connecting Agartala to New Delhi and to increase the frequency of other Superfast trains connecting Agartala to other major cities in the country.**

80. Airport Authority of India (AAI) is implementing the modernization of Agartala Airport Project. State Government has handed over 76.703 acres of land and spent Rs. 38.13 crores for land acquisition and rehabilitation etc. in connection with the said project. **I urge upon the Government of India to expedite the work so that modernization of Agartala airport is started at the earliest. I also urge upon the Government of India to operationalise Kailashahar and Kamalpur airports as early as possible.**

Factories & Boilers

81. With gradual increase in the number of factories, the question of Safety, Health and Welfare of workers employed in factories all over the State has assumed greater significance. During 2017-18, 80 new factories would be given Registration and Factory license and 1500 workers will come under the coverage of Factories Act.

82. During 2017-18, inspection and other enforcement activities would be enhanced for better compliance of Factories Act and Rules in the interest of factory workers.

Tourism

83. Speaker Sir, tourism is another thrust sector of our Government. Our Government is keen on improving the prospects of tourism in our State by improving the existing infrastructure, augmenting accommodation facilities, developing the communication network and strengthening the skills of the manpower engaged in this sector. As a result of such initiatives, domestic & foreign tourist flow is expected to increase, thereby contributing towards earning of revenue.

84. A proposal for Project-II under Swadesh Darshan Scheme launched by Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India has been sent for consideration covering 09(nine) destinations namely Surma cherra water falls, Unakoti, Jampui Hills, Udaipur archaeological sites, Matabari, Pilak archaeological site, Neermahal, Bharat-Bangla Maitri Udyan at Chottakola and Boxanagar archaeological site for

an amount of Rs. 100 Crore and it is expected that the sanction shall be received by 2017-18. Project-I under Swadesh Darshan Scheme being implemented for providing better infrastructure. First academic year is proposed to be commenced at State Institute Hotel Management, Anandanagar from 2017-18.

85. Development of 4 star Hotel by demolishing existing structure of erstwhile Rajarshi Yatri Niwas, Kunjaban has started. The existing major tourist lodges and cafeterias run by Tripura Tourism Development Corporation Limited will be renovated, expanded and upgraded for better quality services to the tourists/boarders. The specific components of cultural tourism which shall be focused upon include Fairs and Festivals, Arts and crafts of the State.

Information and Cultural Affairs

86. Our Government is committed to promote our rich culture and heritage with a view to maintain and strengthen our sense of unity, integrity and peace. During 2017-18, Lok Sanskriti Utsab shall be organized at Gram Panchayat and ADC Village level with participation of thousands of folk artists irrespective of culture, color and creed. Sub divisional level drama, District level Jatra Festival started this year will be continued.

Science & Technology

87. Our Government is keen on preventing environmental degradation and climate change. Programmes have been undertaken to popularize the use of biogas and fuel efficient cooking stoves to reduce pressure on forests.

Initiatives have been taken for design, fabrication and installation of exhibits, planetarium and 3D theatre etc for proposed Vigyan Gram.

88. During 2017-18, it is also proposed to establish Bio-Village, develop Nirmal Gram for reducing the climate change vulnerabilities and develop climate resilient Agriculture and install one continuous "Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System" at Agartala.

Industries & Commerce

89. The Industries & Commerce Department is facilitating trade promotion, planned infrastructure development, value addition to local resources, and support to investors in the form of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, boosting entrepreneurship skills, self-employment efforts and skill development.

90. Significant progress has been made in developing the industrial infrastructure like Industrial Growth Centre, Food Park, Rubber Park, Export Promotion Industrial Park and Bamboo Park is a flagship industrial location with all modern facilities. The existing infrastructures at Bodhjunnagar, R.K Nagar, Kumarghat and Badharghat are being further upgraded to create better facilities.

91. Government is also providing different incentives to local units under "Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme 2012" (TIIPIS, 2012). Considering the demand of the industrial units, the scheme has been revised with additional benefits in the component of Capital Investment and Procurement Preference.

92. The export infrastructure available at Land Customs Stations for trade with Bangladesh is also being upgraded. The Manughat Land Custom Station is being upgraded into an Integrated Development Complex like at Srimantapur LCS. Efforts are on to set up two more Border Haats at Dhalai and North Tripura. One International Fair Ground and Exhibition Centre is being set up at Hapania, Agartala with all modern facilities like open fair ground, Tripura Haat, business centers, auditorium etc and this will be made functional next year.

93. Locally available resources like Rubber, Bamboo, Tea, Natural Gas, Fruits & Vegetables etc. are identified as priority sectors for maximum value addition and additional incentives are being provided to these sectors to boost up investment.

94. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Swabalamban (State Scheme) are being implemented for promotion of self employment. Under PMEGP it is targeted to cover at least 1846 beneficiaries and 4000 nos. under Swabalamban during 2017-18.

95. Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government is very keen to promote self employment by providing skills and credit/grants to the un-employed people. Many young people have been establishing many new Micro, Small and Medium units to generate self employment and to provide employment to others. To encourage further, **I propose to enhance the subsidy available under the Swavalamban scheme from the existing amount of Rs.75,000 to Rs.1,00,000 per project. This enhanced subsidy will be applicable for new projects from the year 2017-18.**

96. The Department of Industries & Commerce is taking an active role in skill development of the youth through training in Engineering and non-Engineering trades. In addition to the existing 15 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), 5 (five) new ITIs are being set up at Teliamura, L.T. Valley, Kanchanpur, Gandachhera and Santirbazar.

97. During 2016-17, till January, 2017, 1133 enterprises have been set-up with an investment of 146.57 crores, employing about 7,600 people. To attract investment, the government has simplified procedural formalities for setting-up of new enterprises in the state.

98. Skill development is one of the important priority areas of the government. We are working with a vision to create new employment avenues for the educated youth through skill enhancement in the emerging sectors. The Action Plan under PMKVY has been approved by the Government of India for Rs 54.07 crores and it will be implemented for the next three years in the state. This will benefit about 36,875 persons for gaining skills.

99. Under the existing Government of India scheme of skill development, there is no provision to provide for loss of wages to the trainees during their training period. Therefore, it has become difficult for the youth to undergo skill development without any income. Hence, for training under skill development schemes, **I propose to provide Rs. 150/- per day per trainee during the course of the training programme under Skill development.**

100. Our Government is working for development of rural economy through support to weavers, artisans and sericulture rearers. One Apparel and Garment

Unit has started functioning at Bodhjungnagar creating employment to un-employed persons. Construction of Modern Silk Processing and Printing Unit at Indranagar will be completed in 2017-18 and is expected to boost the production of finished silk products in the State.

101. The project 'Development of THHDC Complex' of Rs.12.84 crores is under implementation and expected to be completed during 2017-18.

102. Information Technology is playing very important role in transforming the society and governments to deliver better services to the citizens. Our Government has taken several initiatives to promote the Digital reach to the common people. All District HQs, Sub-divisional HQs and Blocks except 12 Blocks have been provided with internet connectivity and the remaining Blocks are also expected to be covered during 2017-18.

103. 5 (five) nos. of District ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Training Centers have been set up in West, Sepahijala, Gomati, South and North Tripura districts to provide skill development trainings for Government staff and unemployed youth. Two Software Technology Parks in Agartala, one at Lichubagan Market Complex and another one at IT Complex, Indranagar will be made functional during 2017-18.

Finance, Taxes and Audit

104. Under Financial Inclusion Plan, there are 35 nos banks providing their services with 500 nos branches in the State of Tripura. 4 nos. new bank branches have been opened during 2016-17 (SBI – 2, IDBI – 1 and TSCB Ltd –

1). Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), 8,22,620 nos accounts have been opened as on 30.09.2016. It is expected that 19 nos. Brick & Mortar branches will be opened during the current financial year in unbanked villages having population above 5000.

105. Credit Deposit (CD) Ratio up to September 2016 is 44%. It was 34% in September 2015. The target for current financial year is fixed at 51% by March, 2017. The Government has been asking the Banks to increase CD ratio to ensure adequate credit is available to start new businesses for the unemployed youth in the State.

106. Mr. Speaker Sir, I do not propose to impose any new taxes on the people of the State who are already paying many taxes imposed by the Government of India.

107. For digitalization of excise payment, e-Abgari is proposed to be introduced in 2017-18.

108. The Goods & Services Tax (GST) is likely to be introduced by the Centre and States from 1st July, 2017. For roll out of GST successfully, the Tax Organisation have planned to organize training and workshops of the Tax Officials as well as other Stakeholders. The Tripura State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) Bill and the Rules there under will be drafted after receiving the Model GST Act and Model GST Rules from the GST Council.

109. Conduct of Internal Audit of accounts of all Government Offices, Institutions, Offices of Local Bodies, and Societies etc. receiving grants from the State Government is undertaken on regular basis to ensure financial discipline.

110. During 2017-18, Internal Audit of various Schools/ Departments/PSU etc. will be taken up in 192 units, Urban Local Bodies in 15 units and PRIS & ADC Area Bodies (PS/BAC, GP/VC/ZP) in 150 units.

111. Many honourable Members have been requesting to increase the allocation of fund under Bidhyak Elaka Unnayan Prakaalpa (BEUP) scheme. **I propose to increase by Rs. 5.00 lakhs from the existing amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs to Rs 35 lacs per year.**

112. During 2017-18, Computerized Treasury Operation System will be integrated with E-kuber (Core Banking solution of RBI) for making direct payment to Payee's Account. It will be further integrated with e-sign of DDOs, Voucher Level Computerization (VLC) of AG (A&E) and PFMS to ensure smooth financial transactions.

113. The State Government has upgraded four Sub-Treasuries located at newly opened District Headquarters to District Treasuries. One e-Treasury has been established for real time monitoring of Government receipts. Finance Department is working to ensure all government receipts and payments are paid and received directly through digital mode.

114. To extend better governance to the doorsteps of the aged and ailing Government pensioners, the State Government has adopted the system of **Digital Life Certificate.**

115. **As a welfare measure, the State Government has decided to extend the benefit of family pension to divorcee daughters of the State Government pensioners.**

116. Hon'ble Members are aware of the financial condition of the State after discontinuation of Central Assistance for Special Category States under Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Special Central Assistance (SCA) & Special Plan Assistance (SPA) in the Union Budget 2015-16.

117. The 14th Finance Commission has also not considered grants like State Specific Grants which are required for infrastructure development activities of the State. There are a number of projects which were taken up in a phased manner by the State Government under SPA / SCA. But due to paucity of funds, implementation of such ongoing projects in Health, Education, Rural roads and Urban sectors etc has become difficult.

118. Hon'ble Members are aware that Union Government has accepted 7th Pay Commission recommendations for the Central Government employees and pensioners in July 2016. In consequence to that, the State Finance department has examined thoroughly the fiscal impact to implement them. It has been revealed that a huge amount will be required to meet the requirement in accordance with the accepted recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission. But in anticipation to that, neither the 14th Finance Commission nor the Government

of India in its budget has made any provision to overcome the financial constraints of the State. In this situation, further examination is going on to take pragmatic views and steps in this regard.

119. However, Mr. Speaker Sir, keeping all aspects in mind, I am now proposing to revise the pay structure and pension for different categories of employees and pensioners of the State for which a provision of Rs 600 crores has been kept in the budget of 2017-18. At the same time, necessary concrete measures will be taken at the earliest to implement the decision of the Government.

120. The State has received Rs.4100.00 Cr during the year 2016-17 as State's Share of Central Taxes against the recommendation of 14th Finance Commission of Rs. 4299.00 Crore. The State's Own Tax Revenue has increased by 5.84% in 2016-17 over 2015-16.

121. Now, I would like to highlight the Receipts and Expenditure projected in Budget Estimates of 2017-18. The collection of State's Own Tax Revenue is projected at Rs.1450.60 Cr in Budget Estimates of 2017-18 with a growth rate of 2.84% over the Revised Estimates of 2016-17. The collection of State's Non Tax Revenue is projected at Rs.290.00 Cr in BE 2017-18 with a growth rate of 15.54% over Revised Estimate of 2016-17. The Receipts from share of Central taxes have been projected at Rs.4500.00 Cr in Budget Estimates with an increase of 9.76% over the Revised Estimates of 2016-17.

122. State is expected to get Rs.1059.00 Cr under Revenue Deficit Grant during 2017-18.

123. The overall Total Receipts excluding adjustment of Opening Balance in Budget Estimate 2017-18 will be Rs.15158.56 Cr. The gross borrowing is projected at Rs.2204.00 Cr in Budget Estimates which includes Open Market Borrowing of Rs.1091.00 Cr and negotiated loan of Rs.200.00 Cr.

124. The Total Expenditure under Budget Estimates 2017-18 is projected at Rs.15956.56 Cr with a growth of 6.79% over the Revised Estimates of 2016-17. This includes Non-Plan Expenditure of Rs.9877.87 Cr. An amount of Rs.6078.69 Cr has been kept under the Plan Expenditure.

The position in brief is:			(Rupees in Crore)
(A)	Revenue Account		
	1.	Receipts	13552.56
	2.	Expenditure	11750.57
	3.	Surplus (A1 – A2)	1801.99
(B)	Capital Account		
	1.	Receipts from loans & others (including public account & OB)	2206.00
	2.	Disbursements	4205.99
	3.	Deficit (B1 – B2)	(-) 1999.99
(C)	Total Receipts: (A1)+(B1)		15758.56
(D)	Total Expenditure: (A2)+(B2)		15956.56
Budget Deficit (C – D)			(-) 198.00

125. 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 either protect or increase the allocations to several developmental departments. There will be a Budget Deficit of Rs.198.00 Cr which I intend to cover by means of better tax compliance, austerity measures and additional resource mobilization.

126. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with these words, I commend the Budget Proposals for 2017-18 for consideration and approval of this August House.