State Level ‘Self Help Group Convention-2014’ of the Forest Department to be held on 27.07.2014
at Town Hall, Agartala

1. The Forest Department is organising ‘Self Help Groups Convention-2014’ with 1,000 leaders of Self Help Groups/Joint Forest Management Committees in which Hon’ble Chief Minister, Tripura will directly interact with them.

2. In the Forest Department including Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Project 1000 Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC)/Eco-development Committees (EDC) are managing 2,38,493 ha of forest land. Under these JFMC/EDC, 2,130 Self Help Groups (SHG) are working. In addition Indo-German Development Cooperation (IGDC) Project is working with 70 villages in which 458 SHGs are working.

3. One of the objectives of the Forest Department is development of sustainable livelihoods of the forest dwellers. In this respect, the Forest Department has taken up several income generation activities through the network of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), Eco Development Committees, Village Development Planning and Implementation Committees (VDPIC) and Self Help Groups (SHGs).

4. The activities include fishery, piggery, de-centralised people’s nurseries (DCPN), agarbatti stick making, harvesting of broom grass, poultry, mushroom, bamboo-based skill development programmes, handlooms, artificial flower making and making of colour candles etc. In all these income generating activities, the SHGs are earning supplementary incomes of Rs 60,000 to 65,000 per year.

5. In addition, the Forest Department is also rehabilitating the ‘jhumias’ by raising agro-forestry/ horti-forestry plantations in the ‘patta’ lands (RoFR lands) of the beneficiaries for their economic development.

6. In the ‘SHG Convention-2014’, the Hon’ble Chief Minister will inter alia give away the cheques of Rs.23.0 lakhs to the 35 SHGs of Tripura JICA Project under Gumti Forest Division being the profit earned by them in raising de-centralised people nurseries. In this regard, every SHG on an average has earned Rs.65,000/- in a year which is a very significant profit for their economic empowerment.

7. Another important achievement of the Forest Department is harvesting and marketing of broom grass through the network of SHGs of JICA and IGDC Projects in which the collection cost directly flows to the beneficiaries. During the year 2013-14, the SHGs have earned Rs.223.00 lakhs in which every collector earned @ Rs 42-64 per KG of raw broom grass.

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(S. TALUKDAR)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Tripura
12 action points as stated by the Honourable Chief Minister, Tripura during one day State Level
SHG Convention-2014

1. To increase amount of Revolving Fund of JFMC under JICA (from the existing Rs. 1.0 lakh to Rs. 3.0 lakh)

2. Loan amount should be increased for each SHG

3. Required road, arrangement of drinking water is to be made in the JFMC project area

4. Vacant areas left in the Project area of JFMC are to be planted up.

5. Old trees after attaining maturity are to be removed and new trees are to be planted up. The revenue against selling of the removed trees is to be given to the right holder (JFMC/Govt.)

6. Finger lings are to be arranged from Fishery department for practising Fishery by the members of SHG

7. Modern musical instruments are to be supplied to Band Party of JFMC

8. Setting of fire in the Forest should be stopped.

9. Issue of engagement of Watcher for protection of Forest may be worked out.

10. Appointment of Officer/Staff to look after work of JFMC exclusively

11. Resurvey of Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary is to be done and area having no significant requirement for the sanctuary are to be separated and managed through JFMC

12. Same rate of Wages may be paid to the members of JFMC as that of workers of MGNREGA.