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Sonowal inaugurates Re-circulatory Aquaculture System of Fishery Department

Inaugurates Caged Pisciculture Scheme at Balipara

Sonowal appeals fish farmers to fulfil domestic demands and cater to the demands of neighbouring states

Urges upon the people to become self-reliant through work

Dispur, June 10: In a move to bring in self-sufficiency in fishery sector, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today inaugurated Re-circulatory Aquaculture System as a part of Fishery department's Blue Revolution at Uluani village in Kaliabor, Nagaon today. The scheme which is a beneficiary oriented scheme will spend Rs. 50 lakh for every project with a funding pattern of Rs. 20 lakh from the government and Rs. 30 lakh from the beneficiary.

Speaking at the inaugural function which was a rather a simple affair, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the COVID 19 pandemic and its resultant lockdown have brought fore several facets of state's strength, opportunities and weaknesses. Based on these revelations, Assam's economy has to be revamped in the coming days. In sync with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of Rs. 20 lakh crore and his call for 'self-reliant India', Assam will have to take the advantage of this financial stimulus to strengthen its stressed economy amid corona virus pandemic.

Chief Minister Sonowal said, "It is an appropriate time for us to become self-reliant and take a pledge to produce items sufficient for our consumption". Stating that the youths of the state will have to take crucial role in bringing in transformation in to state's economy, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the Re-circulatory Aquaculture System that the government of Assam has launched would revolutionise the fishery sector of the state with sustained patronage from the youths.

Chief Minister Sonowal also urged upon the people of the state to become self-reliant by virtue of their committed works. He also said that the lockdown had given opportunity to the farmers of the state to showcase their potentiality and possibility. During this period apart from meeting the domestic demands, they sent their produce to the states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh etc. On the other hand, the farmers of the state have been in position to export their produce to London, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Singapore. During lockdown, the farmers of the state earned Rs. 365 crore by selling their produce.

Urging upon the youths to devote themselves in revenue generating incomes, Sonowal said that the Government of Assam has taken several steps to stimulate the productivity of the youths. He also said that around 45 thousand youths of the state have already received employment generating training from the government and as a result, secured employments in

different sectors. He also stated that the Assam Start Up-The Nest has instilled income generating skills to the youths of the state. Empowered from this skill development avenue, entrepreneurs of the state created around 1700 direct vocations and 40 thousand indirect vocations.

Speaking on the occasion, Fishery Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said that as a result of a series of steps taken by the government over the last 4 years, the fishery department has unleashed solvency in pisciculture in the state. He also said that Re-circulatory Aquaculture System would be able to increase the fish production by three times as the system would enable to practise pisciculture in limited plot of land. He also said that under CMSGUY and *Ghare Ghare Pukhuri Ghare Ghare Maach* as many as 10 thousand beneficiaries got benefitted. Meanwhile, as a result of the liberal schemes of the government, fish production in the state has been able to cater to markets of Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram besides fulfilling its own demands.

Water Resources Minister Keshab Mahanta also spoke on the occasion. MLAs Rupak Sharma, Dimbeswar Das, Chief Minister's Media Advisor Hrishikesh Goswami, Principal Secretary Agriculture Rajesh Prasad, DC and SP Nagaon were present on the occasion.

Chief Minister Sonowal besides interacting with the beneficiaries of the scheme Shailendra Goswami and Dhananjay Upadhaya also took stock of the utility of the scheme.

Afterwards, what can be termed as the manifestation of CMSGUY, Sonowal inaugurated 'A Caged Pisciculture Scheme' (*Sagat*) at Balipara in Sonitpur district. Implemented with 70 per cent share from the government and 30 per cent share of the beneficiary, 'Morabharali Pisciculture Cluster' implemented the scheme.

Speaking at the simple function on the occasion, Sonowal said that Fishery Department has crafted a well laid out plan for Blue Revolution of the state. The fish farmers will have to work dedicatedly to capture fish market. He also stressed on the need to occupy the markets of the neighbouring states and countries.

Sonowal also hailed the efforts taken by MLA Padma Hazarika for revolution in agriculture. He also said that the steps taken by the public representative like Padma Hazarika would motivate the people of all sections.

Fishery Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, MLAs Padma Hazarika, Ganesh Limbu, Chief Minister's Media Advisor Hrishikesh Goswami, Director Fishery Department Nirmal Kanti Debnath, DC and SP Sonitpur were present on the occasion.

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