



JANASANYOG, ASSAM
CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR

PRESS RELEASE

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CM hands over allotment letters of land pattas to tea tribe community

15 PHCs to be set up in 15 ATC tea gardens in State

Wage hike of tea garden workers under ATC to be effective from January 1

State government is safeguarding *jati, mati, bheti* of the indigenous people: CM

Dispur, December 30: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Amar Asom (our state), Amar Mati (our land), Amar Adhikar (our right) are the guiding principles as the State government is safeguarding *jati, mati, bheti* of the indigenous people with these principles".

Addressing a *sramik samaroh* at Cinnamara tea estate while laying the foundation stone of a Primary Health Centre in the tea estate in Jorhat today, Chief Minister Sonowal said that since the first day of taking over power, the present State government has been working to safeguard the rights and privileges of the people of Assam. He also said that his government has adopted land policy particularly to protect land rights of the indigenous people of the state. Stating that he himself being a son of the soil, he will not allow his government to do anything infringing the rights of the indigenous people.

Chief Minister Sonowal also said that his government is carrying out survey of ceiling surplus land of tea garden areas just to ascertain the quantum of land to be given to the people belonging to tea tribe community. He at the same time allayed the fear generated by some vested interest groups that land survey being done by the State government would entail selling the land to outsiders. He maintained that land which originally belongs to tea tribe community will remain with them.

Stating that health and happiness of the people of Assam are the responsibility of his government, Sonowal said that in the coming days 15 PHCs would be set up in 15 tea gardens belonging to Assam Tea Corporation. Terming the tea tribe community as the integral part of Assam's demography, Sonowal said that the State government would adopt all possible means for the progress and prosperity of the tea community. He also said from New Year all the families of tea tribe community would be entitled to 2kg of sugar. He also said that to stimulate social, cultural, economic and educational development of the tea tribe community, his government would allot Rs 1 crore to each 800 tea gardens of Assam for construction of roads. Sonowal also said that under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana around 4 thousand new houses would be built for tea garden workers.

Chief Minister Sonowal also announced that from January 1, 2020, his government would hike wage of tea garden workers under ATC from the existing Rs. 138 to 167 per day. He also said that Cinnamara tea estate is a very important and historic garden as the tea estate found its place in Assamese movie Chameli Memsaab for which Dr. Bhupen Hazarika received the National award for Best



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Music Director. He also announced that the government would preserve the area which featured in this movie directed by Abdul Majid.

Chief Minister Sonowal also handed over allotment letters to some beneficiaries as part of allotting land pattas to tea tribe community.

Industry and commerce minister Chandra Mohan Patowory while speaking on the occasion gave a brief of different schemes the present state government has taken for the empowerment of tea tribe community.

Union minister of state for Food Processing Industries Rameswar Teli while speaking on the occasion stated about the government's broad agenda of financial inclusion. He also said that the government's efforts of bringing the tea tribe community into the banking system is the testimony of eagerness of the government for the welfare of tea community people.

MP Jorhat Topon Kumar Gogoi, Rajyasabha MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MLA Jogen Mohan and Terash Gowala also spoke on the occasion.

Chairman ATC Amiyo Kumar Bora, representatives of Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha, Mission Director NHM Dr. S. Laxmanan and a host of other dignitaries were present on occasion.

SD/ December 30, 2019