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**Sonowal attends Mahila Samaroh 2021**

**Launches series of programmes; distributes scooty**

**For establishing and sustaining a value based society dignity of women needs to be promoted: CM**

Dispur, February 11: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that in a move to forge an ideal society and a superior country, dignity of women have to be promoted. For the transformation of socio-economic condition of the state, women have to be made educated and made economically empowered.

Speaking at the Mahila Samaroh 2021 for empowering women at Sarusajai Stadium here today, Chief Minister Sonowal said that taking into consideration of the six thousand year Indian civilization, State government has been taking several steps for the empowerment of women to empower the state. In order to establish a superior society in the country, efforts must be made in strengthening women in all walks of life. Referring to the verses of Rig Veda, Sonowal said that a society can be made strong if right kind of respect and dignity is shown to the women. Therefore, State government, has taken several steps for the progress of women. Hailing the women self-help groups, Sonowal said that the women members of the groups with the help of value addition to their products have captured markets. The Chief Minister also said that if the women after selling their produce earn livelihood, this helps them to become self-reliant and at the same time helps the family towards good economic planning. He at the same time said that the 58 thousand SHGs through their business to the tune of Rs. 915 have proved their ability. Chief Minister Sonowal on the occasion also launched Vistarita Kanaklata Mahila Sabalakaran Yojana, Aideu Handique Mahila Sanman Achoni, Jeevika Sakhis, Mukhya Mantri Divyangjan Atma-Nirvar Achoni.

Chief Minister Sonowal said that during the 55 years' rule of the Congress government, the state was neglected in all spheres. Therefore, women of the state, could not progress the manner they are progressing during the regime of the present BJP led State government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government at the centre after coming to power made its intention clear by adopting 'Beti Padao, Beti Bachao'. If the qualities of women are made superior, the progress of the country can be expedited to a great extent. Stating that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's use of Asomiya Gamocha on various national and international events have accorded pride and prestige to the Assamese weavers, Sonowal added. He also said that the Central and State governments have taken several steps for the empowerment of women. Referring to the development of Multi-modal logistic hub at Jogighopa, cargo services, surface communication etc, Sonowal urged upon the women folk to work hard to expedite the rate of development in the state.

Speaking on the occasion Agriculture Minister Atul Bora said that after independence for the first time any government took some pragmatic steps for the empowerment of women. He also requested the SHGs to make good use of the government grants given to them for their development.

Speaking on the occasion Minister of State (i/c) for Panchayat and Rural Development Naba Kumar Doley said that the State government has taken several steps to help the women to lead a life of self-reliance and empowerment. He said that for strengthening rural economy, women of the state have been playing a great role. The minister also said that State government under Vistarita Kanaklata Mahila Sabalakaran Yojana will extend the capital subsidy of Rs. 50000 each to SHGs and revolving fund of Rs. 25,000 each to SHGs. Moreover, under Jeevika Sakhi Express, government will provide scooty for Jeevika Sakhis, monthly pension of Rs. 300 to unmarried/divorced women under Aideu Handique Mahila Sanman Achoni etc.

Commissioner and Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Hemen Das gave the welcome address in the programme which was also addressed by Principal Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Dr. J.B. Ekka. Minister of State for Revenue and Disaster Management Jogen Mohan, Legal Advisor of the Chief Minister Santanu Bharali, MLAs Atul Bora, Ramendra Narayan Kalita, Ashok Sharma, Binanda Kumar Saikia, Nabanita Handique, Suman Haripriya and a host of other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Synchronising with the occasion, Sonowal also released a handbook for the divyangjans and presented cheques to the beneficiaries under Vistarita Kanaklata Mahila Sabalakaran Yojana, Aideu Handique Mahila Sanman Achoni and scooty under Jeevika Sakhis.

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