



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

PRESS RELEASE

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CM visits Baghjan with Union Petroleum Minister and takes stock

Affected people would be provided maximum compensation and rehabilitated: CM

Both Centre and State acting together to find solution: Pradhan

Dispur, June 14: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today visited Baghjan in Tinsukia with Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and assessed the damages wrought by gas well blow out incident there. He also took stock of the control measures being carried out by foreign experts and other specialists of OIL and other agencies and progress made by them.

Subsequently, he also visited the relief camp set up at Baghjan Dighaltorong High School for the affected people of the area and interacted with the inmates. Offering his respect and empathy to the people for the hardships they were going through due to the gas well fire incident, Chief Minister Sonowal said that such an incident was completely unfortunate and unexpected and state government was taking the matter very seriously. He also informed that Additional Chief Secretary Maninder Singh has already been directed to inquire into the causes leading to the incident and submit report within 15 days while Additional PCCF (wildlife) M.K.Yadava has been entrusted with the responsibility to carry out a study on the adverse impact of gas well explosion on the ecology and environment of area. He also said that the central government too had constituted a three member high-level committee to investigate the matter.

Saying that the foreign and in-house experts of OIL and ONGC were trying to douse the fire at the gas well, Sonowal appreciated the resilience showed by the people of the area in dealing with such an adversity. He said that both the central and state governments had been constantly monitoring the whole situation and the damages were being assessed and assured that people would be given maximum compensation for their losses. Both the central and state governments were standing firmly with the people of Baghjan in this moment of crisis and would do everything to alleviate difficulties of the people, he said.

The Chief Minister also announced that for bringing permanent solution to the problems of floods and erosion in Baghjan area, state government has earmarked an amount of Rs 27 crore which would be released soon. Apart from that, one model hospital and a veterinary hospital would also be set up in the area along with a model higher secondary school, he announced. Development of the Tinsukia-Baghjan road, converting Maguri-Motapung Beel into an international tourist destination by both OIL and state government, providing financial assistance to women SHGs of the area, setting up a skill development centre were some other key announcements made by the Chief Minister.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that he made the visit to Baghjan following the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ministry had been monitoring the whole situation constantly. He also said that he was in

Website: cm.assam.gov.in/assam.mygov.in

 /CMOfficeAssam

E-mail: cmprcell09@gmail.com

 /cmofficeassam



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touch with Chief Minister Sonowal over phone since the incident broke out and both the central and state governments were making all out efforts to bring the situation under control and douse the fire. He assured that the affected people would be provided maximum compensation for their losses and asked the people to extend their full cooperation to the government in controlling the gas well fire.

The Chief Minister also received a memorandum from Baghjan Gaon Milan Jyoti Juba Sangha containing various demands and assured of looking into them.

Union Minister of State for Food Processing Rameswar Teli, Industries and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowari, Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, Minister of State for Disaster Management Jogen Mohan, Minister of State for Tea Tribes Welfare Department Sanjay Kishan, Rajya Sabha MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, several MLAs, top officials of OIL, ONGC and other departments were also present during the visit.

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