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### **Sonowal attends Punjab National Bank's loan mela**

#### **Asks bank fraternity to introduce Ease of Getting Loan in line with Ease of Doing Business**

Dispur, January 7: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal participated in a loan mela organised by the Zonal Office of Punjab National Bank at Dharapur here today and presented the sanction letters of loans to different beneficiaries. On the occasion, Sonowal inaugurated the bank's Kamrup district Circle Office and Zonal Audit Office and PNB loan point.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal said, "For maintaining our self-dignity we need to become self-reliant". Close on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, the Punjab National Bank's initiative of disbursing loans to different beneficiaries will definitely help the people to become self-reliant and self-sufficient. He at the same time requested the bank authorities to have constant monitoring on the utilization of the loan amount. He also called upon the beneficiaries to spend every penny of the loan productively so that the loan amount can be channelized into a useful resource. He said that in response to Prime Minister Naredra Modi's announcement of Rs. 20 lakh crore, in Assam one lakh small, medium and marginal entrepreneurs secured bank loan to the tune of Rs. 2 thousand crore.

Sonowal said that immediately after coming to power, the present State government launched an uncompromising tirade against corruption. As a result people of the state have been in a position to take a sigh of relief from the burden of nose-deep corruption. The competent and educated unemployed youths could secure government jobs under the present dispensation. Construction of more than 20 thousand kilometre roads and more than two thousand concrete bridges are the testimony of government's good performance.

Stating a slew of measures taken by Narendra Modi led BJP government at the centre for doubling farmers' income by 2022, Sonowal said that in the same spirit, State government has launched Chief Minister's Samagra Grammya Unnayan Yojana to bring about infrastructural development of the farming community in 26 thousand villages in the state.

For the self-employment of the youths of the state, Sonowal requested the bank authorities to introduce 'ease of getting loan' in same line of 'ease of doing business'. He also asked the bank authorities to conduct awareness meetings in all the 26 thousand villages, 1500 tea gardens for generating financial wisdom.

On the occasion, as part of PNB's corporate social responsibility the bank contributed Rs. 25 lakh to Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

In the programme PNB's North Eastern Zonal Head S.S. Singh gave the welcome address. Several senior officers of Punjab National Bank and NABARD were present on the occasion.

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