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CM interacts with Gaonburas and Tea Garden Sardars via audio conference

Play active role in generating awareness on social distancing: CM

Dispur, April 21: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal interacted with over 3500 gaonburas and sardars of tea gardens through audio conference today and urged them to play active role in generating awareness among people on the importance of maintaining the norm of social distancing in their respective areas to fight COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chief Minister appreciated the gaonburas and line sardars for their cooperation in making the nationwide lockdown successful in the State. He also asked them to extend support and keep watch on smooth distribution of essential commodities supplied by the State government among the poor and needy people.

While interacting with the gaonburas, the Chief Minister informed that the State government has relaxed lockdown conditions for taking up farm activities as per guideline of the Central government provided the farmers strictly adhere to the norm of social distancing. He appealed the gaonburas to ensure maintaining all health advisories and lockdown guideline by the farmers alongwith other villagers of their respective areas. He also called for their active role in seamless distribution of essential goods and other government assistance among all poor people of the villages.

The Chief Minister while talking to sardars of the tea gardens reaffirmed the State government's commitment to ensure well being of all tea garden workers. He said that the State government allowed plucking of tea leaves engaging 50% workers as per direction of the Central government. However, the garden workers would have to maintain the norm of social distancing and the sardars must observe that government directives in this regard are adhered *in toto*, the Chief Minister added. He also urged the sardars to ensure use of mask by tea workers at their work place and availability of adequate water and soap for regular handwashing in coordination with tea garden management and local administration. The Chief Minister also appealed the sardars to see that all garden workers adequately receive government assistance and other facilities.

The gaonburas and garden sardars during interaction assured the Chief Minister to ensure complete compliance of lockdown norms and monitoring smooth distribution of government aid and assistance in their respective areas.

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

 /CMOfficeAssam

E-mail: cmprcell09@gmail.com

 /cmofficeassam