



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

PRESS RELEASE

Press Release No. 391/2020

15th Finance Commission recommends erosion as natural calamity

State to submit details for rehabilitation of erosion hit people: CM

Centre allots Rs. 772 crore under SDRF

Dispur, May 30: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that State government has taken special steps for solving flood and erosion problem. In a statement, here today, Sonowal said that State government has already sent a letter to the 15th Finance Commission, requesting it for granting adequate compensatory measures towards relief and rehabilitation of erosion-hit people and consider erosion as a natural calamity.

In response to Assam Government's letter, the 15th Finance Commission accorded river erosion as a natural calamity and recommended for adequate compensation including rehabilitation under SDRF and NDRF. Stating that Central Government has asked the State to submit a detailed report incorporating the details of those victims in the state who rendered landless and homeless due to erosion, Sonowal said that his government is preparing a detailed report for the same to be submitted to the Centre. He also exuded confidence, this would ultimately bring to an end to the long pending problem that the people of Assam have been going through owing to erosion.

Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given never before importance to the flood and erosion of the state and affected a phenomenal increase of Rs. 772 crore under SDRF. Sonowal said that as a part of allocation, State government has already received Rs. 386 crore. Besides, flood and erosion, State government has released substantial amount to look after other calamities that the districts might go through. He also said that necessary instructions have been given to the district administrations for providing quality food, medicines, baby food, fodder etc to the flood and erosion hit people living in the relief camps. He also said that his government would tolerate no recklessness in this regard.

Chief Minister Sonowal also said that the people of Assam at present are fighting against various calamities like COVID 19, flood, cyclone and African Swine Fever. However, the government is putting up its brave front against these problems with the help of the people of the state and different departments of the government. Having visited places that are going through flood, erosion etc. Sonowal said that strict instructions were given to water resources department to repair the breaches in the embankments so that they (embankments) can sustain their capacity as deterrent to flood. Sonowal also said that though COVID 19 and the subsequent lockdown have hampered the progress of the repairing work, during relaxation, the government agency has undertaken the process of repair and protection work on a full throttle. He also said that the MLAs, MPs, panchayat representatives along with the local people have extended full cooperation in this aspect. Chief Minister also made it clear that directions were

given to every DC to ensure that the people affected by flood face no encumbrances in getting their daily requirements.

SD/PD/PB/ May 30, 2020.