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Sonowal presents financial assistance and others to registered construction workers
As against the Congress government, the BJP led government bolsters new development
for tea community: CM

Dispur, February 20: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 9.97 crore to 21,562 registered construction workers and their dependents at a programme organised by Labour Welfare Department in association with Assam Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board held at Dibrugarh.

It may be noted that in the programme, Chief Minister Sonowal apart from giving away financial assistance to the construction workers, also provided smart phones to 2702 *sardars*, bicycles to 3039 garden's line chowkidars and post metric scholarships to 3261 meritorious students belonging to tea communities under Simon Sing Horo Special Scholarship scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal said that construction workers play a great role in making and designing the country in a modern way. He said that the reason the country is discovered in its present form is the unrelenting diligence, dedication and ability of the construction workers. Therefore, giving them dignity and prestige is the duty of everybody. Keeping this as a fundamental principle, Prime Minister Narendra Modi immediately after coming to power has decided to bring the construction workers along with others who were hitherto kept outside the ambit of development narratives brought them in financial inclusion under Jan Dhan Scheme and enabled them to enjoy the dividends of banking systems.

As a result, around 35 crore workers could open bank accounts during last six years of NDA government. Further saying that central government schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana benefitted the target group cent percent, the Chief Minister informed that the Assam government under a scheme of the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board provided Rs. 50 thousand to workers injured in road accident and Rs. 3 lakh to the next of kin of workers killed in road accidents. He also informed that the government introduced initiatives like free admission, free uniform, free textbooks etc. to ensure that children of the workers could pursue higher education without any hindrance. He also said that government schemes like Arundhati, Soubhagya, PM Ujjala etc. immensely benefitted the disadvantaged section of the society.

Moreover saying that the government gives equal importance to welfare of the farmers, the Chief Minister informed that under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Rs. 6000 were transferred to the accounts of each of the farmers through DBT. The pregnant tea garden workers were also provided Rs. 12,000 as wage compensation; the Chief Minister said adding that the Assam government undertook several schemes for women empowerment including sachems like Kanaklata Mahila Sabalakaran Achoni. Further assuring the workers and farmers the farmers,

the Chief Minister said that the government is working untiringly to address all issues affecting their lives.

Union Minister of State for Food Processing Rameswar Teli, Minister of State (independent) for Tea Tribe Welfare Sanjay Kishan also spoke on the occasion. Minister of State (independent) for Revenue Jogen Mohan, MLAs Rituparna Baruah, Chakradhar Gogoi, Teresh Gowla, Prasanta Phukan, CEM of Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council Dipuranjan Makrari, DC Pallab Gopal Jha and host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Later, Chief Minister Sonowal talking to the reporters said that today it is a special day as the State Cabinet held decided to increase wage of the tea workers by Rs. 50 and therefore, under the present government the wage has been increased to Rs. 80. On the other hand, State government has been working to stimulate the academic, health, sports and cultural development of the tea workers. In spite of being in power for several years the Congress government could not improve the lot of the tea workers. However, the BJP led government in little more than 4.5 years, scripted a new development narratives for the tea workers of the state.

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