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**CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**CM reviews NRL expansion project, assures all support for timely completion**

**Dispur, Sept 15:** Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal assured all support from the State government for timely completion of NRL expansion project, foundation stone for which was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January this year.

While taking stock of preliminary work of implementation of the project with NRL officials at NRL Conference Hall in Numaligarh on Saturday evening. Chief Minister Sonowal urged the Mini-Ratna officials to adhere to the timeframe as per roadmap prepared for execution of the expansion project. Sonowal said that as the bio-fuel plant is expected to generate huge direct and indirect employment, NRL must carry out a study to identify the size of skilled manpower required to run the plant as well as the ancillary industries so that necessary skill development initiatives could be taken up beforehand.

Underlining the need to engage district administration and the DICC in generating skilled manpower, Sonowal also requested the NRL officials to prepare an assessment report to guide the government on skill enhancement and maximization of people's involvement in the proposed project. The Chief Minister observed that such an endeavor would help in developing people's belongingness and ownership with the project.

Chief Minister Sonowal also highly appreciated the efforts put by NRL officials under the leadership of its MD SK Baruah in convincing the union government to make highest ever investment for a single project in the North East amounting to Rs. 22,594 crore. He expressed hope that augmentation of capacity of NRL would not only benefit its production capacity but also make the State visible in the industrial landscape of the South East Asia.

Earlier, the NRL officials made a presentation before the Chief Minister seeking support from the State government on issues related to additional land, initiatives for removal of No Development Zone around the refinery, availability of forest materials, development of road infrastructure and enhanced security around the refinery. The Chief Minister assured the NRL officials to extend all required support from the State government on timely completion of the project.

Noteworthy that while the cabinet committee on economic affairs approved the project in 2019, construction on the proposed 6 MMTPA refinery would start from 2020 with mechanical completion by 2023.

During the meeting, NRL MD also handed over the Chief Minister the company's final dividends of Rs. 27.24 Crore. Altogether Rs. 154 crore dividends have been given to the State government by NRL during the current year.

Agriculture Minister Atul Bora Water Resources Minister Keshav Mahanta, MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MLA Bimal Bora, UAD Commissioner Juri Sonowal, senior officials of Golaghat district administration and NRL officials were present in the meeting.

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