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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Sonowal lays foundation for more than one lakh dwelling houses under PMAY (G)**

**Dispur, August 6:** In a move to provide dwelling houses to those who cannot afford house themselves, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid foundation stone of more than one lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen) at a function held at Sarusajai Sports Complex here today. At the same function Chief Minister Sonowal handed over sanction letters for loan to one thousand Self Help Groups (SHGs) under Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission and three thousand appointment letters to youths under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grammen Kaushalya Yojana.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal said that one of the main flagship schemes of the Centre, Panchayat and Rural Development department has set a target of making two lakh houses under PMAY, as the State government has launched the process of making more than one lakh houses across the state today. Sonowal said that under PMAY the beneficiary besides getting a concrete house will get social security.

Sonowal also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led the government to adopt futuristic schemes where in people especially from lower income group has got the opportunity to participate in the nation building process. He also said that the economically insolvent people of the country so far were deprived of hygienic toilets, a good dwelling houses and therefore, had to live from hand to mouth. In this backdrop the PMAY scheme along with other scheme have enabled the poor beneficiaries both access and reach to dwelling houses and hygienic toilets. With the help of these schemes, a foundation stone has been laid for a strong inclusive society. He also said that with the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A in Jammu and Kashmir a strong initiation has been made under prime Minister Narendra Modi for uniformity in administration in the country. He also thanked Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for removing all obstacles for the expeditious development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Minister Sonowal said that because of the transparency ushered in by the BJP led dispensation in the state, government at present has been in a position to spend Rs. 70,000 crore annually in the state. It is because of the strong steps of the Prime Minister no state has to look back in their march towards prosperity. He also urged upon the people of the state to be motivated by the development agenda of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and work to stimulate the development of all sections of the people. He also called for a concerted effort to expedite the growth trajectory of the state. Stating on the aim set by the Prime Minister for making Indian economy a five trillion dollar economy, Chief Minister Sonowal exhorted on the need of occupying the vibrant markets of ASEAN and BBIN countries to reach the target within the stipulated time.

Minister of State (i/c) for Panchayat and Rural Development Naba Kumar Doley while speaking on the occasion said that in the financial year 2019-20 of the total 1,94,338 registered houses, State government received sanctions for 1,22,304 houses. He expressed confidence that once construction of these houses are complete, people in the villages will be able to lead a secured and dignified life.

Principal Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development J.B. Ekka delivered welcome address. MLA Ramendra Narayan Kalita, additional secretary to the Union Ministry of Panchayat and Rural Development Prasanta Kumar also spoke on the occasion.

Minister of State for Revenue and Disaster Management Bhabesh Kalita, Minister of State for Health Pijush Hazarika, Media Adviser to the Chief Minister Hrishikesh Goswami, Chairman Housefed Ranjeet Dass, MLAs Binanda Kumar Saikia, Ramakanta Deuri, Pranab Kalita, Gurujyoti Das, Moneswar Boro, Suman Haripriya, and a host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

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