



SIKKIM HERALD

Vol. 66 No. 16 visit us at www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in

Gangtok (Saturday) April 02, 2022

Regd. No. WB/SKM/01/2020-22



Fourth day of Budget Session 2022-23



Obituary Reference

Gangtok, April 01: The fourth day of the Budget session 2022-23 started with the Obituary Reference on the passing away of former Chief Minister of Sikkim, Mr. B.B. Goroong.

In his Obituary Reference, Speaker, SLA, Mr. L.B. Das, expressed profound sorrow on the demise of Late B.B. Goroong and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Late Bhim Bahadur Goroong breathed his last on March 28, 2022 at his residence in Lumsey, Gangtok. He was 93. He is survived by two sons, a daughter, and grandchildren.

Late B.B Goroong served the State as the third Chief Minister of Sikkim from May 11 to May 24, 1984. He was born on October 11, 1929 at Chakhung. He matriculated from St. Roberts School in Darjeeling. After his graduation from the University of Calcutta, he served as a teacher from 1953 to 1955. For a short period of time, he also worked as a staff reporter for the Calcutta-based newspaper Amrita Bazar Patrika. He also edited the first news-based Nepali Journal of Sikkim, called Kanchenjunga.

Late Goroong held the distinction of being the first Sikkimese politician to win simultaneously from two constituencies, Chakung and Jorethang, in the 1979 general elections.

In May 1984, Nar Bahadur Bhandari's government was dismissed by then-governor Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan. Shortly thereafter, Late Goroong was sworn in as the third Chief Minister of Sikkim and was in office for 13 days.

In the year 1993, Late Goroong joined the Sikkim Democratic Front formed under the leadership of Mr. Pawan Chamling and served as Chief Political Advisor. After the formation of the SDF government in 1994, Late Goroong was appointed as Chief Political Advisor to the Chief Minister of Sikkim and held office until 2013.

After the 2014 election, Late Goroong disassociated himself from active politics but was vocal in his support for Sikkim Krantikari Morcha led by Mr. Prem Singh Tamang.

Chief Minister Mr. Prem Singh Tamang, in his obituary reference, recalled his long association with Late Goroong as a guardian and said that the State will remain indebted to the former Chief Minister for his valuable contributions to the socio-political development in the State of Sikkim. The State has lost a true democrat and a pro-people politician today that has truly left a void that cannot be filled, he expressed.

The Obituary Reference was also participated by MLAs, Mrs. Raj Kumari Thapa, Mr. Karma Loday Bhutia, and Mr. Aditya Golay.

Pearls of Wisdom

"Do what is right, not what is easy nor what is popular."
-Roy T. Bennett,

Gangtok, April 01: During the Legislative Business on the fourth day of the Sixth Session of Tenth Assembly (Budget Session 2022-23), four Bills were introduced in the House by the concerned Ministers-in-Charge. The bills were;

1. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2022

(Bill No. 08 of 2022) introduced by the Chief Minister also the Minister-in-Charge of Home Department Mr. Prem Singh Tamang.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, it was felt necessary and expedient to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 in its application to the State

of Sikkim.

And whereas, the bill seeks to amend section 24, section 25 and section 25A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 in its application to the State of Sikkim.

And whereas, through this bill the State Government seeks to

Contd. on page 4

Question Hour

Gangtok, April 01: On the fourth day of the Budget Session 2022-23, several questions were raised by the various members in the House.

Responding to the question put forth by MLA, Mr. Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, with regard to the status of the constructions of the bridge at Bey under Sakyong-Pentong GPU and another bridge over Tholung River in Upper Dzongu, Minister of Roads & Bridges Department, Mr. Samdup Lepcha, said that the construction of abutment on Bey side was nearing its completion during May 2020. However, due to the flash flood that occurred on May 24, 2020, the entire work

executed at the site was damaged and washed out.

He added that owing to the complete washout of the road and bridge at Mantam, which connects Sakyong Pentong GPU, the construction work was further delayed and for which, the matter has been reported to the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India, which is also the funding agency and the response he said, is still awaited.

He further informed that the construction works of Kayum Bridge is in progress and the work will resume once the permanent connectivity is restored.

Addressing the issue on the bridge of Tholung River, the

Minister clarified that the entire work executed at the site was damaged due to the same flash flood that occurred on May 24, 2020. Hence, the construction work was further delayed. The matter has been reported to the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, GoI, and the response is awaited.

In the context of the delay of the construction of the bridge over River Kanaka between Kayem to Tingvong, the Roads & Bridges Minister stated that the construction of Two-Lane Bridge over River Kanak in Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim was sanctioned for

Contd. on page 4

Full text of the address delivered by the CM on the second day of the Budget Session 2022

Continuation from previous issue

vi) Adhoc teachers remained a victim of undefined and uncertain system and policy of the previous government. Now we have a firm policy that any teacher who has completed 8 years as adhoc teacher will be automatically made permanent. This is likely to benefit more than 700 teachers as soon as we implement this policy in next couple of months. We have also done away with the term 'adhoc' often derogatorily used and replaced with a dignified term 'probationary'.

vii) We have also more than doubled the consolidated salary of teaching and non-teaching staff working under the Samagra Siksha programme from ₹7000/- to ₹15000/- per month.

viii) We have established 4 model schools at Hee-Gyathang, Chota Samdong, Namthang, and Gangtok. This has been funded by Ministry of Minority Affairs with the matching contribution from the State Government and we plan to set up 4 such schools every year.

ix) During 2021-2022 alone, we have sanctioned 146 new school buildings in different parts of Sikkim focusing mainly on primary schools. The construction of the buildings is underway steadily.

x) We now have 50 medical seats in the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences at Tadong which would be made available freely to Sikkimese aspirants of MBBS programme from the academic year 2022. Along with this we have additional 30 seats which will be available to Sikkimese on a paid basis. These arrangements are unprecedented and should have been done at least 15 years back. This permanently corrects the prolonged injustice done to otherwise talented aspirants of medical education coming from the poor and downtrodden level of our society.

I assure the Hon'ble Members more seats will be negotiated with the appropriate authorities under both these categories so that in future we shall generate doctors for services within the State and for the country and abroad.

xi) In order to enhance the nutritional intake and also to bolster their mental faculty, our government has just initiated a scheme providing 200 ml of milk per day per student to targeted 1500 girl students in the State. This will be done under the aegis of Sikkim Milk Union Limited and National Dairy Development Board.

Environmental Protection and Climate Change adaptations

For us in Sikkim environmental protection has been a core area of governmental interventions. We now have multiple challenges emanating from global climate change. They range from fast melting of glaciers in our mountain ranges to devastations caused by glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF), structural change in the entire water tower ecology to threats to our agricultural heritage, displacing the traditional livelihood occupations to crops shifting to higher altitudinal heights, and from natural disasters to impact on riverine resources and wildlife.

No one has been able to exactly say how Sikkim and surrounding areas will be affected and what sectors and subsectors will be impacted.

Unless we know all these, we shall not be able to really mitigate and manage and prevent some of these very deleterious impacts.

Our government would therefore, take up the following measures this fiscal year.

i) Set up a high-level Climate Change and Glaciology Commission consisting of experts on glaciology and the related climate change impact.

ii) Provide Fellowships to our young scientists (who have already obtained Ph.D. degrees in social science and natural science) to study the impact of climate change on critical areas like rivers and waters, food and agriculture, energy security, disasters, and society and culture.

iii) Organize a quarterly lecture under the broad format of "Khangchendzonga Dialogue" which will be delivered by widely acclaimed experts on environment, climate change, hydro diplomacy, disasters, national security and cultural ecology.

Meanwhile our government has operationalized plastic bans more effectively including the use of plastic water bottles.

We have also announced annual awards of ₹10 lakh for the Cleanest Bazar of Sikkim falling under municipalities and ₹5 lakh for the Cleanest Village of Sikkim covered by various panchayats.

Huge Physical infrastructures

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Our government is seriously negotiating with the Government of India on various transforming infrastructure projects. These projects if approved and operationalized would transform the entire range of physical infrastructures in Sikkim and its connectivity with key points of India and the neighboring countries. Some of them like the two Passenger Ropeway systems from Pelling to Sanga-Choeling in West Sikkim and Cable Car from Dhapper to Bhaleydhunga in South Sikkim have already been included in the Union Budget of 2022-2023 under the new scheme called Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti. An initial allocation of ₹1500.00 crores is proposed, out of which Sikkim is likely to receive ₹122.00 crore as gap funding for these two projects. We thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Finance Minister for these allocations.

Other projects that are likely to take shape in the very near future are the alternative highway to Sikkim running on the Sikkimese side from Teesta-Rangeet confluence onwards and Chiwabhanjang road corridor to Nepal through Uttar side of West Sikkim. These 3170-meter-high pass makes soft dent into the famous Singalila Range adjoining Darjeeling and makes smooth entry into Nepal. The Chiwabhanjang corridor could in fact be considered as the first Sikkim-Nepal Economic, Trade and Tourism Corridor (SNETTC) that will have an Integrated Check Post (ICP) and other modern facilities. Only a few days back, the Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji while speaking at the Land Port Authority of India in fact, very eloquently, mentioned about these land-based corridors to strengthen India's relations with its neighbours. The Motor Vehicle Agreement of 2015 among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal for a seamless entry and exit of vehicle from these four countries in each other's territory could be another major connectivity point for Sikkim.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir and Hon'ble Members,

In this regard I am pleased to inform you that:

The declaration of 3 State Roads as National Highways is being vigorously

pursued and is likely to happen in course of this fiscal year. These three highways include; (i) Manpur-Nayabazaar-Legship, (ii) Nayabazaar-Daramdin-Sombaria-Soreng-Kaluk-Bermiok-Dentam-Uttarey-Chiwabhanjang and (iii) Rangpo-Pachak-Mamjey-Dikling-Pakyong road.

Currently, we have two Foreigners Registration Offices (FRO) located at Ramam, under the newly formed Soreng district, and Reshi in Pakyong district. Such Central Government institutions would bring smoothness in tourism flows in the state.

Employment Growth, Investment Ventures, and Income Generations

Development should trigger both growth and equity. Growth must happen across the sectors and disciplines. The benefits of this growth should be translated into distributive justice so that every individual, family and community gets the fruit of development. Our government is keenly following the path of steady economic growth and distributive justice in all fronts. As soon as we got the mandate by the people to run the affairs of the state, we realized that there is rampant and deep-rooted inequality in the state. This inequality not only prevailed in income generation and distribution, but also on issues of employment, social justice, food security, access to governmental facilities and more seriously, education and health.

We would therefore, like to scientifically study the geographies, communities, families that have suffered from the deprivations and inequalities both in the past and at present. DESME under the Planning Department is now conducting this study under the broad title of 'UNNAYAN SARVEKSHAN'. The results of pilot study are available and the full study is being conducted.

For our government, a crucial development engagement is in the employment sector. Unlike in the past, we would like to diversify the platforms of employment in the state. We would train and reorient our youths to increasingly defocus and move away from Government jobs. Had it not been for the pandemic, we would have made major strides in the employment generation in the State. We have even legislated on employment to the locals by passing the "Sikkim Labour (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act 2021". We have now very clear plans and programmes for the next few years. Some of these are appended below.

i) No extension in services:

As promised, our government has totally stopped giving any extension in services to senior officials, middle-ranking and gazetted officers since April 2020. Only in exceptional humanitarian grounds some extension on services will be considered for class IV staff members.

ii) NIYUKTI KENDRA

Our government has just initiated a Niyukti Kendra under which all records of the appointed persons in various government departments and other private institutions will be maintained. This will help us in assessing the employment situation in the State and also assist the Government in man power planning.

iii) Sikkim Skill Exchange Bank (SSEB)

Our government will now set up Sikkim Skill Exchange Bank (SSEB) mainly to both map all the skills available in the State and deploy them where ever they are needed. Today it is very difficult to know which skills are available in the state, where they are located and in what numbers or grades. We also do not exactly know which are the sectors and sub-sectors where these skills are needed.

Skills could be in any areas of user group interest like electricians, painters, plumbers, reporters, film producers, documentary producers, theatre/music/art/dances groups; religion and faith-based products, the publishing industry, project preparations, monitoring and evaluations techniques and fashion designing. It could also spread over to indigenous innovations, architects, drivers, tourist literature preparations, carpentry/furniture making, interior decorators, event organizers and hotel services. These skills could be even in areas like motor mechanics, computer hardware and software, coaching centres, designers, hydel power engineers, experts, researchers to conduct studies, tourist guides, mountaineering trainers and entertainments managers.

The proposed SSEB will be a central pool of skills providing the entire details of all the available skills in the state on the basis of their registration in the SSEB. Anyone needing their services will directly approach the SSEB or access data and information from SSEB and meet their skill needs. Idea is to provide a common platform for skill suppliers and users who need skilled persons. Today many users find these skilled people by word of mouth and through some references. SSEB will pool the demand and supply systematically in a common pool to maximize their utility.

This will allow the skilled persons to get the value of their skills and users to get a satisfactory and reliable service.

iv) Foreign Workers Training and Recruitment Institute (FWTRI)

Our government is keen to start Foreign Workers Training and Recruitment Institute mainly to provide employment opportunities to the Sikkimese people in foreign countries. In this regard, I kept some initial funds to kick start this project but could not pursue it mainly due to the pandemic.

Now this Institute will be set up in coordination and cooperation with various Foreign Embassies in India and other international job recruitment agencies. Sikkimese people and the youths in particular will be given training in various professional areas. It will be managed by professionals, legal, financial and foreign employment experts. There are growing employment opportunities in countries like Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Israel, Gulf countries and such. Government will make use of various training in various skills and professions through India-Japan arrangement of Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) under the National Skill Development Corporation of Government of India.

There could be a situation where we shall be able to export even highly skilled people like doctors.

Owing to the huge ageing (old age) population in Japan, Europe, Canada, USA, and other countries there are now big demands for both the female and male nurses and other health workers. We would like to harness these markets by providing professionally well-trained female and male nurses from Sikkim. Many of these trained professionals could also get gainful employment in India's major hospitals

Contd. from page 2

Full text...

and health outfits.

v) Sikkim Foreign Investors Confluence

Sikkim now has a range of industries basically led by pharmaceuticals and breweries. Most of these industries are doing well. However, except the breweries, revenues from other industries particularly the pharmaceutical, has been very dismal. On the one hand, because of these industrial units, our gross domestic product has handsomely increased and therefore the per capita income too.

In the coming years we need to really concentrate on set of industries and investors which are productive, efficient, livelihood oriented and nature friendly.

A very recent study done by a team of professionals, led by our Chief Economic Adviser for the NEDFi in Guwahati identified 15 crucial projects as investment opportunities in the North East region by the investors from South East Asian countries including Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar. These Projects in 08 (eight) sectors/sub-sectors include Curcumin (Turmeric), Oleoresin (Ginger), Bamboo Fiber and bamboo Based High End Construction Material, War Tourism, River Cruise tourism, Buddhist Circuit tourism, Integrated Nursery and Post-Harvest Management of Flowers, Sitalpati Craft, Banana Fiber Extraction Plant, Ethnic Fashion Design, Pig Breeding and Pig Processing, Herbs and Folk Medicines and Commercial Processing and Small Sized Palm Oil Mill.

The DPR for all these projects are available and are being used by various ministries of Government of India and also countries in South East Asia. It also mentions newer varieties of investments including in areas like management, technology transfer, supplier of raw material, infrastructure like cold chains, professional participation and expertise provider, finance, marketing, value chain, research and development and specialized services like veterinary services, horticulture-floriculture nursery management, breeding and feed management, fashion and textile design interventions, travel agency inter-connections, institutional support etc. It highlights as to how local entrepreneurs can collaborate with the investors from South East Asia under India Act East Foreign policy framework.

In this context, the Government of Sikkim will now undertake two major programmes in this fiscal year

Firstly, the government will organize **Sikkim – Global Investment Confluence and Visit Sikkim- 2022** during the month of October – November, wherein some of the most widely known green investors will be invited and introduced to Sikkim as an abode of green investments. This will be attended by investors from India and abroad including Japan and Korea and southeast Asian countries, Europe and North America. The multilateral agencies like the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme and other philanthropic organizations will also be invited to this first-ever confluence.

And secondly, a group of young entrepreneurs from Sikkim will be taken on the investment partnership exploratory tour to southeast countries focusing on green sectors and sub-sectors.

Therefore, I set aside a sum of ₹2 crores to accomplish both these crucial programmes.

High Value Tourism Corridor and Mega Home Stay project

We have already identified the High Value Tourism Corridor and working to implement the projects.

Under Mega Home Stay project units numbering 1000 will be built by the Government. Each home would have three rooms and other amenities. In total 3000 rooms traditionally designed with local architectural structures will be laid out in the attractive locations of villages and will be commercially run by the villagers themselves.

We have increasingly realized that the homestay is a powerful concept and everyone would like to go to a village or a remote area, mingle with nature, live with the community, and enjoy organic dishes. We also noted during the lockdowns a large number of people move to villages and make use of these homestays.

These 3000 rooms even with an occupancy rate of 80 percent for 365 days, could actually generate more than ₹175 crore per annum.

It could provide direct employment to 9,600 persons (4 persons per room x 2400) and indirect employment (4 times the direct employment) to 38400 persons.

It will have a tremendous impact on all the forward and backward linkages like food production, dairy and other businesses and will generate huge revenue for the State.

If need be, we shall send the young entrepreneurs and other staff for training and capacity buildings in other places including Goa, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Darjeeling.

These home stays will blend well with urban and rural tourism facilitation centres and also with the model villages that are being developed at Rey Mindu (East), Bermiok (West), Ringhim Nampatam (North), and Mamley Kamrang (South).

Youth, Sports, and Media

The Hon'ble Members would be impressed to note that the protractedly delayed and apparently neglected, Bhaichung (Bhutia) Stadium has now been completed and opened for the public. Despite cost and time overruns since 2012, we have been able to dedicate this stadium to the people of Sikkim within 29 months of our assuming the governance of this beautiful State, investing ₹62.13 crore in this project.

This stadium inspires the young Sikkimese and Indians and also the players in the neighboring countries to persevere and join the club of eminence in sports. In Sikkim, we have excelled in football, boxing, mountaineering and archery but we are yet to make a deep dent into national and global level cricket, hockey, athletics and other sports. Our government is fully devoted to improve and groom the youngsters to compete in global sports.

We are also setting up Tarundeep Rai Archery Academy at Khichudumra, Kamrang to celebrate the fabulous achievements of one of the most illustrious sportspersons of India and Sikkim who is accorded with the prestigious Khel Ratna Puraskar and Padma Shree award by the Government of India.

The legendary Brazilian footballer Pele once said, "Success is no accident, it is hard work" and "Everything is practice". Both the modern AstroTurf for football and the practicing field of archery will fulfill the quality hallmark set forth by the international sports regulatory agencies like FIFA and World Archery Federation.

Excursion Fund for Media

Media has been playing a crucial role in building the modern-day Sikkim. Despite serious challenges brought about by non-traditional media instruments like various social media, Sikkimese media persons and institutions have firmly and innovatively withstood the challenges. Our government intends to make our media more vibrant, innovative and competitive.

In order to provide an institution to the entire Sikkimese media we have gifted a Press Club Bhavan to the Press Club of Sikkim. While highly appreciating the risks that our media persons took in covering and fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, we prioritized distribution of safety kits to them and also provided them with financial incentives.

We plan to send our media persons all across other states to see for themselves what is happening around the country and at the global level. These excursions and exposures will re-skill our media persons, make them evaluate more objectively and nurture spirit of competitive professionalism in them.

In order to provide them with some basic opportunities our government will provide the following:

Media Fellowship: Visit to any development project in the country to evaluate and write a series of reports from the field and submit the final report to the Government of Sikkim. In this regard, 10 selected media persons will be provided with ₹1.5 lakh each, per fiscal year. All accredited journalists/media persons of Sikkim will be eligible for this Fellowship programme.

Though this Fellowship programme was announced earlier, we only received few responses. Therefore, I urge them to make utmost use of this programme which can be beneficial for them at various levels.

Strides in Political, Social and Religious Demands

We reaffirm our resolve to grant the status of scheduled tribes to the remaining 12 communities "**Khas**" (Chettri, Bahun), Rai, Magar, Gurung, Sanyasi/Giri, Dewan/Yakkha, Thami, Newar, Sunwar/Mukhia, Jogi, Majhi, and Bhujel in Sikkim. We have made several representations to the highest offices in the Government of India who has firmly assured us for a speedy resolution. One of the major loopholes we detected was that there was no government resolution by the State Assembly to this effect. And, hence, we passed the government resolution on 11 January 2021 with wide acclamation from the entire House. This resolution was personally submitted by the Chief Minister to the union Home Minister and other high dignitaries in the Union Government. This timely passing of the resolution has made our case rather strong and convincing.

One of our determined political efforts and socio-cultural demands has been to welcome His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje to our state Sikkim.

We have had a series of discussions with the highest authorities in the Union Government and thus we have been assured that as soon as the 17th Karmapa returns to India after his long foreign sojourn, his passage to Sikkim will be smoothly facilitated. This will be a joyful and eternally contented moment for the entire people of Sikkim.

Our firm resolve to get the seat reservations for Limbu and Tamang communities in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly has been indicated by our constant pursuance and negotiations with the highest authorities in the Union Government. We are also continuously discussing and deliberating with constitutional and legal experts to evolve options and measures that could provide transparent, acceptable and durable formula.

Unfortunately, we missed the most crucial opportunity and intervention which could have been easily and effectively made by the last Delimitation Commission constituted in 2002. We do not know the reasons as to why this very critical opportunity was missed by the previous Government for resolving and bestowing the reservation of LT seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

However, we are determined to clinch this issue and we continue to maintain the pace of negotiations and bring more urgency to the entire process of final configuration and resolutions.

Farmers, Farming and Growth

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Sikkim has a huge tradition of mountain agriculture heritage. Our farmers have contributed immensely in the building of modern Sikkim. Many of them have left behind old practices of farming and entered into modern ways. Our government found three serious challenges faced by the farmers in Sikkim today.

Firstly, a large number of families of farmers have gradually shifted to other occupations and also migrated to urban areas. This is because of upward social mobilization and also farmers did not find any incentives to remain in villages and continue to cultivate themselves.

Secondly, climate change has started affecting various crops as one can see new varieties of pests and diseases invading the cropping fields resulting in severe crop failures.

Thirdly, the governmental extension and other institutions and facilities are not reaching the farmers. As a result of which the farmers did not get the required support.

Keeping all these in mind our government have started some major interventions

i) We are shifting the development focus to rural areas and we are strengthening all the rural institutions including that of Panchayati Raj and extension services.

ii) We are identifying the products which can be a game changer in the rural areas and are accordingly providing incentives to the farmers.

For instance, we have now given a remunerative price incentive of ₹8 per litre of milk with particular fat and solid non-fat (SNF) standard and a minimum procurement price of ₹40 per litre to all the dairy farmers under the newly initiated Milk Production Incentive Scheme (MPIS) under Mukhya Mantri Pashudhan Yojana. As a result, the milk supply has gone up to 56000 litres per day from 25000 to 30000 litres per day.

Over 15000 dairy farmers have benefitted so far from this subsidy of over ₹26 crore in the last two fiscal years and will soon be in a position to export our milk and milk products to other states. We are also planning to design and set up supplies of milk through bulk vending machines similar to Mother Dairy in Delhi.

Under Mukhya Mantri Pashudhan Yojana, similar incentives are extended to piggery farmers under the Pig Production Incentive Scheme (PPIS).

To be contd. on next issue...

Contd. from front page

Fourth day...

amend section 24 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to appoint a Public Prosecutor or Additional Public Prosecutor for conducting a case in such Court, any prosecution, appeal or other proceedings on behalf of the State Government through the Directorate of Prosecution.

And whereas, the bill also seeks to substitute section 25A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 relating to establishment of Directorate of Prosecution and appointment of Director of Prosecution and other officers.

And whereas, the bill also seeks to specify the powers and functions of the officer heading the Directorate of Prosecution.

With this objective in view, the bill has been framed.

2. The Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence Bill, 2022 (Bill No. 09 of 2022) introduced by Minister, Education Department, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha.

Whereas the State Government has deemed it expedient to establish a global university par excellence by the name "Netaji Subash Chandra Bose University of Excellence" under a Public-Private Partnership, in the state of Sikkim, sponsored by NSBUoE-SIBIN Society at Chakung.

The aim for establishing the University is to provide quality higher education leading to excellence and innovations in such branches of knowledge as may be deemed fit at under graduate, post-graduate and research degree levels leading to empowerment and fostering entrepreneurship in the community. It shall offer opportunities for instruction and learning in areas of Liberal Arts, Science, Engineering Technology, Management studies, Medical Sciences, Para-Medical Courses, Dental Sciences, Health Sciences, Travel and Tourism studies, Legal studies, Environmental studies, Design and Fashion Technology, Visual Communication, Yoga and Health Education and related courses which are relevant to the current needs of the society, for long term requirements and responsive to the anticipated changes and developments in terms of breadth of diversity and depth of specialization. Such educational and research opportunities will be offered to all the deserving students desirous of

pursuing such course of study, without any discrimination of nativity, religion, caste or creed through regular, online, part-time, and distance education mode. It will have a special focus on the heritage, culture and ethnicity of Eastern Himalayan region.

Further, establishment of the University in Chakung, Soreng District, will provide necessary momentum for overall development of the area.

With this objective in view, the Bill has been framed.

3. The Capital University Bill, 2022 (Bill No. 10 of 2022) introduced Minister, Education Department, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha.

Whereas, the State Government has deemed it expedient to establish a self financing Private University under the name of "CAPITAL UNIVERSITY" in the state of Sikkim, sponsored by Ch. Charan Singh Educational Foundation (CCSEF) at Zoom, Salghari area.

And whereas, establishment of this University shall provide a major boost in terms of academic upliftment as well as overall economic development of the younger population of the State, keeping in view a rising demand for services like transport, accommodation, demand for other goods and services etc.

With this objective in view, the bill has been framed.

4. The Sikkim Board of Indigenous Languages (SBIL), Sikkim Bill, 2022 (Bill No. 11 of 2022) introduced by Minister, Education Department, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha.

The State Board of Indigenous Languages (SBIL) aims to facilitate learners of Indigenous Languages of Sikkim like Rai, Tamang, Gurung, Sherpa, Newar, Mangar, Sunwar (Mukhia), and Bhujel to enable them to pursue education in their respective languages at Secondary and Senior Secondary levels.

The establishment of this Board shall provide a legal platform for learning different Indigenous languages of the state at the school level, which will greatly help in their conservation and development. Since this board is one of its kind in the entire country, it will also facilitate learners of these languages from other states of India. This will also pave the way for starting degree courses in these languages.

With this objective in view, the Bill has been framed.

The discussions on the Bills will be taken up on, April 02, 2022.

Contd. from front page

Question Hour...

₹88.54 crores during the year 2018-19. The work was awarded to National Project Construction Corporation (NPCC), Gurugram, Haryana on a turnkey basis. The physical progress achieved is 70% and the payment made is ₹62.41 crores till date, he informed.

He further added that the work has been delayed due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the declaration of lockdown several times during which, the skilled manpower deployed at the construction site did not work due to fear and panic.

Replying to a question raised by MLA, Mr. Karma Sonam Lepcha, Minister, Agriculture, and Horticulture Departments, Mr. Lok Nath Sharma, informed that the Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture were allotted a total fund of ₹10688.32 lakhs, out of which ₹4577.32 lakhs were received from the Central Government and ₹ 6111.00 lakhs from the State government up to February 28, 2022.

He also mentioned the amount of funds allotted under each centrally sponsored scheme, the state earmarked schemes, and also under administration in detail.

He focused on the exemplary financial incentives provided to the farmers under the newly initiated Mukhya Mantri Krishi Aatmanirbhar Yojana and informed that the amount of ₹20382167/- have been received by farmers on their bank account at first and second installment as production incentive.

Besides, the beneficiaries will also receive the pending amount of ₹61329413/- straight to their bank account at the earliest.

Replying to a supplementary question, the Agriculture Minister underlined numerous efforts made by the State government for strengthening organic farming in the field. He touched upon the ongoing comprehensive exercise being executed after constituting Sikkim Organic Farming Development Agency (SOFDA), pragmatically, in transforming the agriculture sector and benefiting the farmers in practice.

In his reply to the query raised by MLA, Mr. Pintso

Namgyal Lepcha, Minister for Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha, stated that the areas of Bey, Sakyong-Pentong GPU, Passingdang under Passingdang-Sappo GPU and Shipgyer GPU were affected by landslide/mudslide due to heavy rains of June 27-28, 2020, after which immediate evacuation of the inhabitants were taken up by the State/District administration. He stated that adequate compensation was disbursed to the individual households and a rehabilitation programme was prepared wherein Chadey Village near Mangan has been identified for allotment of 60 units of dwelling houses to the affected people of Passingdang and Bey villages.

Likewise, Ramon and Upper Ship Villages were severely affected by landslides and the inhabitants were shifted to safer locations for rehabilitation has been identified at Shipgyer where 18 units of houses are proposed for construction, he informed.

He further stated that a proposal for rehabilitation under permanent restoration has been submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI for financial assistance under long term measures under NDRF.

On the query raised by MLA Mr. D.T Lepcha regarding the source of funds for the purchase of 28 nos. of vehicles to CM's party workers distributed on the September 13, 2021, the Chief Minister in his reply stated that the purchase was not made from the Consolidated Fund of the State government. He said that neither the maintenance nor the POL/HSD cost of the said vehicle is being made from the Consolidated Fund of the State Government.

Replying to the query raised by MLA, Mr. Karma Sonam Lepcha, regarding the pending Land Compensation Bill & payment in the State, Minister for Land Revenue Department, Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha, clarified that whenever a land is acquired by any department, the land compensation is calculated by the concerned District Collector's Office. Compensation calculated is then forwarded to the Land Revenue Department for claiming the same from the acquiring

department. The LR Department also checks the assessment and if it is found in order, the compensation is claimed from the acquiring department, he informed.

The Minister added that once the cheque is received from the acquiring department, the LR Department immediately releases it to the concerned DC's Office for disbursement. As per the information received from the Districts, all compensation received have been released to the landowners. The majority of the pending compensation is due to nonreceipt of funds from the acquiring department and in some cases, on account of disputes.

Replying to the query put forth by MLA, Mr. D.R. Thapa, on the measures taken by the State Government to curb corruption in the State, Chief Minister Mr. P.S. Tamang informed the house that with reference to the matter of investigation of corruption cases by the members of Delhi Special Police Establishment, consent has already been accorded to all members of Delhi Special Police Establishment to exercise powers under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (No. 45 of 1946) subject to prior approval of the State Government vide Notification No. 70/Home/2010 dated 21/07/2010.

Also, the Lokayukta and Vigilance Directorate are the institutions to address the curbing of corruption with full operational freedom.

In the context put forward by Mr. Pintso Namgyal Lepcha the Minister of Education Department, Government of Sikkim Mr. Kunga Nima Lepcha said that the project of Polytechnic College at Mangshila is presently at standstill due to the Arbitration case between the Education Department and the contractor Mr. Karchen Lachungpa and for which the final hearing has been scheduled on April 09, 2022.

Once the case is settled, the work shall be resumed and completed within one year provided the remaining funds are allocated to the Department, he added. He further conveyed that the College shall be started immediately after the completion of the infrastructure.



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