BRIEF REPORT ON NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTY ACT (NREGA)

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005 passed by the Parliament in August 2005 is a path-breaking legislation for securing the livelihood of the people in rural areas through a legal guarantee of 100 days of employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It aims to offer a legal guarantee on such an unprecedented scale and reflects commitment of the Government to provide an effective safety net to the poor. The Ministry of Rural Development Department, Govt. of India acts as the implementing authority at Central level whereas the Rural Development Department in the concerned States acts as the nodal department at State level under NREGA.

The NREGA have been in effect in some selective districts of the country from 02\textsuperscript{nd} February, 2006 and has covered the entire country on 01\textsuperscript{st} April, 2008 in phase wise manner. The implementation of NREGA envisages a collaborative partnership of the Central and State Governments and of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Central Government bears 90\% of the cost of providing employment under this programme whereas the rest 10\% is borne by the State.

The present rate of wages of the NREGA beneficiaries has been fixed to Rs.85/- per day per worker.

Those who are willing to do NREGA works requires to get enrolled by applying for registration to the local Gram Panchayat. Subsequently, Job Cards are issued to the wage seekers. If a worker is not provided employment within 15 days of the work applied for, unemployment allowance needs to be paid to that worker.
Workers can file complaints on difficulties being faced while undergoing works under the scheme.

Works like water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation), irrigation, renovation of water bodies, land development, rural connectivity can be taken up under NREGA. Execution of the programme are being carried out in accordance to the NREGA Operational Guidelines framed by the Ministry of R. D., Govt. of India.

The implementation of the scheme is closely monitored at both State and District level.

The D. M. & Collector is responsible for implementation of NREGA in the district level and act as District Programme Coordinator who is assisted by the B.D.O. at block level as Programme Officer.

In Tripura, Dhalai has been covered under NREGA in its 1st phase of implementation in the country w.e.f. 02nd February, 2006. Subsequently, NREGA has been introduced in West and South Tripura districts in its 2nd phase w.e.f. 01.4.2007 whereas the same has been in effect in North Tripura district in the 3rd & final phase since 01.4.2008. More than 6 lakh families has been registered under NREGA in the entire State till date.

The programme is being implemented in the State as The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Tripura (NREGS Tripura). The State Govt. has framed The Tripura Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 2006 (TREGS, 2006) and The Tripura Rural Employment Guarantee Rules, 2006 (TREGR, 2006) in accordance to that of NREG Act.

The State Government is making its best efforts to make the NREGA implementation in the State a great success.

---0---