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### CM unveils employment mission

By A Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Aug 28 – Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi today formally launched the ambitious Employment Generation Mission that seeks to generate employment opportunities for 1.67 lakh people at a cost of Rs 669 crore. The Mission is based on a study on generation of substantial and sustainable employment opportunities in Assam by noted economist Dr Jayanta Madhab. The study also suggested the proposed approach for tackling the unemployment problem.

To start with, the Mission has taken up six projects as per proposals submitted by the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Assam Livestock and Poultry Corporation (ALPCO), Rashtriya Gramin Vikash Nidhi (RGVN), AMTRON and ASOMI. This is expected to result in employment opportunities to about 9,000 people under the concept of joint liability groups in different economic activities.

The duration of the projects – which involve a component of 25 per cent margin money and 75 per cent bank/financial institution/beneficiary contribution – varies from three months to two years.

Launching the project at a function chaired by Planning and Development Minister Prithvi Majhi, the Chief Minister said that the need of the hour was to effect a change in mindset of the youth so that they did not hanker after government jobs.

“Creation of self-employment generating activities would go a long way towards addressing the State’s burgeoning unemployment problem. Of late, we have also started giving emphasis on technical, professional and vocational education,” he said.

Citing the absence of skilled labour in the State as a major problem area, Dr Madhab said that the Mission sought to create through the various projects both wage employment and self-employment opportunities.

“Skill-building, which is essential for enabling the trained persons seek wage employment or engage themselves in self-employment, is the thrust area of the Mission,” he said.

The projects under the Mission relate to agriculture, horticulture and dairy development, handloom and handicrafts, tourism, small and medium enterprises, industrial infrastructure, development of manpower skills, etc. The Mission will bear Rs 320 crore of the total estimated cost.

The Mission, which was constituted on March 19, 2007, is headed by the Chief Minister and includes experts from various fields as well as representatives from the State Government, Central Government and banking and non-banking financial institutions.

Assam, incidentally, has a very high incidence of unemployment including educated unemployment. The number of registered unemployed persons in the State is 18.50 lakh.



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