

Workshop on Income Tax in Tribal Areas



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Kokrajhar: Media fraternities from different media houses across the district of Kokrajhar have participated on a workshop held at Bodoland Guest House conference hall in Kokrajhar on Wednesday.

BTC executive member Doneswar Goyary lighted the lamp to inaugurate the workshop attending as chief guest which had witnessed a well gathered discussion on the income tax, agriculture and health sectors in the district, which was organized by Press Information Bureau (PIB), Guwahati in association with Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) administration.

Goyary appreciated the efforts of Press Information Bureau and BTC administration for organizing sensitization workshop for journalists, said that the success of any scheme or policy of the government depends upon proper dissemination of information to the masses. He added that this kind of initiative will help in clearing the apprehensions of the tribal people regarding income tax as well other developmental aspects in the state. He also opined that more such workshops can be organized to make the general masses aware of the government schemes through the help of the media persons.

Director General, north east(NE) zone, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, government of India, Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia hinting upon the importance of well directed communication, said that proper dissemination of information among the people is the essential for any scheme of the government to be successful. He added that a well informed press also helps to clarify doubts among the masses regarding government policies. He added that his ministry is constantly in the effort to make the general masses aware of the government schemes, policies and programme through its various departments.

During the technical session, Anil Bhardwaj, additional commissioner of Income Tax, gave a detailed presentation on the peculiar issues relating to direct and indirect taxations including TDS and on the issues related to section 10(26) of income-tax Act with reference to Tribal areas. He also highlighted various new provisions prohibiting certain types of transactions, particularly cash transactions, which attract stiff penalties. Since NER has low banking coverage, people may inadvertently enter into the prohibited transactions and thus become exposed to penal provisions, he added. He said, "The awareness campaign, and this workshop in particular will help the people understand and avoid such prohibited transactions".

He also added that 'The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016' imposes obligations on taxpayers and others not to indulge in certain types of transactions or to report such transactions. This workshop seeks to spread awareness about such laws and prohibitions and obligations there under, he added. This is for the first time that such dedicated campaign has been launched in NER for the benefit of the tax payers in the region.

Dr J. Ahmed, Joint Director of Health Services, Kokrajhar and Sanjay Sengupta, assistant director, Agriculture department gave a detailed presentation of their respective departments, where they highlighted the state and central sponsored welfare schemes that are being run by the government for the benefit of the masses.

BTC Additional Principal Secretary Jolly Das Brahma, Secretary Bhabani Prasad Sarma, officials of the Income Tax Department of Guwahati and Bongaigaon, officials of Press Information Bureau, Guwahati, and officials of the BTC Secretariat and other district level state government official were also part the Vartalap.

The technical session was followed by an interactive session where the resource persons were able to clarify various queries of the journalists that emphasised to bring healthy implementing ways of the government schemes and policies in coming days.

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BY AT KOKRAJHAR BUREAU

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