The Economic Revival Committee 2020 constituted

Date: 02-Jun-2020

Gangtok, 2nd June (IPR): The Economic Revival Committee 2020 constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble MLA, Shri Sonam Tshering Venchungpa, convened a press conference at Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok today.

Shri Venchungpa was accompanied by the Committee Member Secretary, Shri Sonam Lepcha (Secretary, Planning and Development Department), and members, Shri V.B. Pathak (Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department), Shri C.L. Denzongpa (Economic and Financial Advisor to the HCM) and Dr. O.P. Dhakal (Professor, Medicine, SMIMS).

Chairperson, Shri Venchungpa, apprised the gathering about the activities and observations made by the Committee following the announcement of its formation by the Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri P.S. Tamang (Golay) last month to revive the State’s economy which has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He informed that the Committee held its first preliminary meeting on 18th May to set an agenda-based methodology while identifying various stakeholders for active consultation required for economic revival of the State and evaluating future prospects of restructuring and further strengthening the economy. The basic objectives of the Economic Revival Committee(ERC) is to bring back the economy to its normalcy and consulting with the stakeholders and supporting a long-term economic pathway, he added.

The methodology applied by the ERC at the initial stage was to hold consultative discussions in two phases. The first phase involved the discussions with the State government and departmental heads and the second phase entailing with various stakeholders.

Shri Venchungpa updated that the Committee has already had consultations with the State government and its counterparts for their valuable...
inputs. Over a period from 21st to 23rd May and 28th to 30th May, the Committee has held consultations with various concerned departments including Education, Cooperation, Police, IT, NIC, Power, Labour, Skill Development, Irrigation, PHE, Land Revenue, Excise, Transport, Agriculture and Horticulture, AH&VS, Forest and Environment, Commerce and Industries, Tourism, UDD, Food and Civil Supplies, RDD, Health and Social Welfare. During this period, the committee interacted with the above mentioned departmental heads wherein thrust areas to retrieve base status of the impact induced by the lockdown and its projections over next 6 to 12 months were deliberated upon.

It was informed that the Committee will now proceed to the second phase of their methodology which involves major stakeholders from civil society.

During the briefing, it was informed that on 4th June 2020, the ERC will hold meetings at Tashiling Secretariat with Sikkim Hotels and Restaurant Association (SHRA), All Sikkim Travels and Hospitality Association (ASTHA), Sikkim United Tourism Organisation (SUTO), Travel Agents Association of Sikkim (TAAS), Sikkim Association of Adventure Tour Operators (SAATO), Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association (SAMA), Sikkim Paragliding Association (SPA), Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Owners Association.

The committee has also scheduled to hold meetings with entrepreneurs, online business, Marwari Association and Bihari Association, Lal Bazaar Super Market Traders Association, Organised sector/Pharmaceutical units and Distilleries and Breweries on 5th June.

Similarly, on 6th June, discussions will be held with Lead Bank and NABARD, ICAR/Spices Board/GB Pant Institute, OMAS, Chalak Morcha and Luxury Tourist Vehicle Association, Local Taxi Drivers Association, Main Line Taxi Driver Association and Sikkim Taxi Driver cum Tax Owners Association and Truck Drivers Association and Truck Owners Association.

In the briefing, it was apprised that the meetings with Zilla and Upa- Adhyakshas, (one from each district), BSNL/Telecommunication Department, all Vice Chancellors of Universities and representatives of Sikkim Krantikari Party are scheduled for 8th June.

The ERC will also be holding consultation meetings with representatives of various political parties of the State on 9th June.

Shri Venchungpa further expressed that it is a daunting task for the Committee to reach out to each and every individual person scattered across the State. The Committee has, therefore, requested the public at large to send their suggestions and feedback for short as well as long term economic revival through the committee’s WhatsApp number – 98000 79444 and email id – ercsikkim2020@gmail.com.

The Committee members further urged everyone to work in tandem for revival of the State’s economy.