

Regarding need to restore funding under Border Area Development Programme to West Bengal-Laid

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA (KRISHNANAGAR): The Border Area Development Programme (BADP) was launched to address the developmental needs and well-being of the people living in the border areas, to provide them with critical infrastructure and ensure the twin objectives of livelihood security and national security. West Bengal shares around 2200 km of border with Bangladesh, that is, over half of the Indo-Bangladesh border; another 183 km with Bhutan and 100 km with Nepal. Despite the state's substantial share in the country's border areas, West Bengal has been starved of funds under the BADP. From 2022-23 to 2024-25, West Bengal has received no funds under BADP. This raises serious concerns - on one hand, West Bengal has not been provided with funds to develop, to build infrastructure and ensure sustainable livelihood opportunities in its border areas; and on the other hand, Bengali migrant workers are facing difficulties in other states. I request the Government to release funds under BADP.