

Trinamul seeks rural post for tea



Jalpaiguri Trinamul president Sourav Chakraborty greets Uttara Burman, the new sabhadhipati, on Wednesday.

Jalpaiguri: Trinamul leaders in Jalpaiguri have raised a demand that a separate post of a "karmadhyaksha" (member-in-charge) be created in the Jalpaiguri zilla parishad to look into the affairs of tea sector in the district.

On Wednesday, as Trinamul formed the zilla parishad board in the district and the new sabhadhipati Uttara Burman and new sahakari sabhadhipati Dulal Debnath sworn in, the leaders said they have sent their demand to the state panchayat and rural development department and have also appraised the administration about the need for the post.

As per the panchayat act, there can be karmadhyaksha for 10 sthaye samitis (committees of departments) in a zilla parishad.

"In Jalpaiguri, tea gardens are spread in a larger area that is why, we feel, a separate department for tea affairs should be constituted and a new post of a karmadhyaksha should be created. This would largely help in extending social assistance to the tea population and in implementing rural welfare schemes in the tea estates," said Sourav Chakraborty, Jalpaiguri district Trinamul president.

Sources said that there are options to create such posts in a zilla parishad, but with approval from the government. In Jalpaiguri zilla parishad, Trinamul has bagged all 19 seats.

Sources said the immediate past sabhadhipati Nurjahan Begum left the party office without formal handover of the charge and expressed dissent. "Begum, also a winning member, alleged that she was ignored during the entire process of board formation and felicitation," said a source in the party.

"She reminded the district leaders that it was due to her decision to join Trinamul (from CPM) that the party could secure the board back in 2016," the source added. The former sabhadhipati did not take calls after leaving the Trinamul office. "There might have been some miscommunication which had left Begum disappointed. We will speak to her soon," said a district leader.

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