

SAVING THE GIRL CHILD, SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT

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KRISHNAGAR (NADIA): If the guardian of a girl child nourishes the saplings given by Nadia administration for 20 years, when the girl grows up she will get a good amount of cash from the sale of the tree.

This will help her become self-reliant.

The Nadia administration has adopted a plan to hand over 101 saplings of valuable trees to the families in Nadia which have baby girls up to five years of age, the district magistrate of Nadia, Vijay Bharti, said.

It is a dual benefit scheme adopted by the Nadia administration. The DM said, "Save girl child, save environment" is our slogan for the scheme. This will serve both purposes of saving the girl child and the environment."

The poor families who have no land to plant the saplings would be provided government land for 20 years.

"In that case, the beneficiaries would be given the 'Briksho Patta' (patta for the trees). They will plant the saplings on the government land provided by the administration. They will nourish the plants up to 20 years and then chop it down for sale. The girls at their age of 20 to 25 years will become the owners of the trees, but not the owner of the land," the DM explained.

The species of the saplings like Segun, Gammar, Lombu, Mehogini etc will be distributed among the poor villagers.

DM Vijay Bharti said, "We have 2.5 lakh saplings in stock. Lands to landless poor families with baby girls will be given land at the side of rivers, canals and roads. Meanwhile, the land in case of Haringhata has been selected at River Yamuna canal."

The poor would be provided wages from the MGNREGA (100 days' job) during the days of planting the 101 saplings. Needy families will get Rs 175 a day as plantation charge. It will be effective both in the case of own land or administration-provided land.

The Nadia administration has primarily selected four gram panchayats to initiate the scheme. These are Palashipara Gram Panchayat under Tehatta-2 block, Narayanpur-2 Gram Panchayat under Karimpur-2 block and Kastodanga 2 and Nagarukhra-2 Gram Panchayat under Haringhata block in Nadia.

The administration has identified 58 baby girls at Nagarukhra gram panchayat and 35 at Kastodanga GP in Haringhata block. They have identified 38 baby girls at Narayanpur GP and 101 at Palashipara GP, the DM said.

It is reported that wood-based plants were selected for free distribution. Birohi-2 GP will be added under this project. As birth records are with gram panchayat offices, it is easy to select the baby girls.

The DM said this was a continuous process and more gram panchayats would be brought under this scheme in Nadia in the near future.

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