

# BDO meet for poor-performer blocks today

**SNEHAMOY  
CHAKRABORTY**

**Calcutta:** The state panchayat and rural development department has called block development officers (BDOs) of "poor performing" 118 blocks across the state to the city for a special review meeting on Wednesday in order to boost the implementation of government schemes in their respective areas.

The state has 341 blocks.

The district panchayat and rural development officers (DPRDO), in charge of monitoring rural schemes of all 22 districts, have also been directed to attend the meeting, along with their BDOs.

"After a survey, we have found the performance of 118 blocks in the state in implementing different schemes is comparatively poor. This may be a result of a lackadaisical attitude from the end of the administration or some major issues on the ground that the officials have failed to address. That is why we called them physically to plug the gaps," said a senior bureaucrat in the department.

The meeting, in two parts at the conference hall of Suvanna, Salt Lake, will explore the reasons behind administrative lapses, if any, and train participants to troubleshoot while implementing projects.

He said the government had a plan to conduct such special meetings and workshops regularly with BDOs and district officials.

A source said the state government wanted to showcase a robust implementation of development schemes in rural belts ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls despite the BJP-led Centre stopping the flow of funds to the state for several schemes since January 2022. "Now the Bengal

government wants to showcase its performance instead of deprivation by Delhi," said an official.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has repeatedly flagged the issue of the Centre freezing funds to the tune of Rs 1.55 lakh crore under different developmental schemes.

A good record in implementing development projects on the ground matters for two reasons, the official said. On one hand, the state government does not want any snag in the existing flow of funds from the Centre anymore, and proper and timely utilisation of the money received is significant.

On the other hand, the state has launched some big schemes to fill the void created by the halt in central funds for schemes like 100 days' jobs, rural roads and dwelling units. These have to be implemented well.

Pathashree is one such scheme that Mamata launched before panchayat polls to build and repair 11,500km of roads across rural Bengal as the Centre stopped sending the state funds under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The Mamata government allotted Rs 3,000 crore in its budget proposals for 2023-24 to Pathashree.

Mamata announced a scheme, Khela Hobe, to give jobs to those who have cards of the 100 days' job scheme as the Centre stopped funding it in Bengal.

"The BDOs will be introduced to such flagship schemes at the meeting," said an official.

A senior official of a south Bengal district said while some blocks did perform poorly, the state should understand the constraints of BDOs as they were busy with the July 8 rural polls.