

Jalpaiguri to represent state in national level workshop

District tops social audit on 100 days work projects

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JALPAIGURI, SEPT 18/— / The Centre had initiated a social audit programme with an aim to ensure transparency in the 100 days work projects across the country, and Jalpaiguri district has stood out top among the districts of West Bengal in implementing the audit programme. The district is to represent the state at a national level workshop being organised by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences on September 21 and 22 in Mumbai, informed Jalpaiguri district magistrate Pritha Sarkar today. The social audit plan for the 100 days work projects was primarily initiated as a pilot project in Jalpaiguri and Hoogli districts back in 2006. Panchayat pradhans

were initially part of the programme, but they were later replaced by block development officers in an effort to ensure optimum transparency. MGNREGA district coordinator Samiran Mandal said, “Initially the village panchayats used to audit the 100 days work projects and a lack of transparency was observed. Moreover, data and complaints related to corruption, scam and deprivation of people from getting job cards were not provided. But with the BDOs of respective blocks participating in the audit process, there has been a heightened amount of transparency. In the current year, more than 6 lakh families have been provided with job cards and more than 4.14 lakh people have got jobs.”