

Honourable Sir,

I am happy to present the very first state budget of the present Government popularly elected just four months ago.

Sir, this transformation has been made by the people of Maharashtra having faith in the thoughts/values of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Here, I want to make it clear that this change is not for the sake of making few people richer but the people of Maharashtra want to see their dreams turning into reality. For that, people have given us this opportunity to serve them. Our Government is committed to fulfil the aspirations of the people of the state who have reposed their faith in our Government. As the Finance Minister, I will strive hard to reflect all the hopes and expectations of the people of Maharashtra in my budget. The State Government while presenting this budget has honestly tried to make it more favourable and the handicapped, weaker sections, the dalits, the tribes, farmers, labours, the minorities should feel that the Government cares for them. I am quite aware of the fact that the 11 crore people of Maharashtra are hopeful and judging the intentions of the Government through this budget. The Government has kept in view the insights of the Rural Development Concept of respected Shri Tukdoji Maharaj, the social justice as per the expectations of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Antyodaya scheme based on the views of Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay and the progress of my dear sisters, the young generation which is still unemployed even after pursuing higher education, the farmers, tribes and all.

In brief, priorities have been ascertained - to stabilize and to make sustainable the dry land agriculture, rapid growth of basic infrastructure, to successfully face the challenge of everyday growing urbanisation and more important to increase the job opportunities for the youth of our state. I am aware that, there may be some provisions which are mandatory keeping in view of past liabilities and sudden change in the direction in the budget may not be always feasible. However, I will provide maximum funds for the above mentioned sectors in forthcoming 5 years.

To start with I have substantially increased the provision for these sectors in the present budget. I am aware that while transforming the dreams of growth of the people into reality, we have to come across various challenges ahead. Currently, the State bears a debt burden of over Rs.3 lakh crore for which we are servicing an interest burden of over Rs.24000 crore. The revenue imbalance poses a challenge on the financial management of the State. In current year, the revenue deficit has reached Rs.13883 crore. I am quite aware that if we utilise the loans and debt for our regular expenditures, we are forcing unjust burden on the next generations. In order to bring the revenue balance back on track, I will definitely take some strong measures. We have to create capital assets for the new generation. I know that certain capital expenditure which is accounted for in Government accounts may not necessarily lead to productive asset formation and thus I will explore all ways and means to make a capital expenditure more fruitful. The available resource growth is limited. Though the roadmap to progress is quite difficult, with the blessings of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, we are committed to move ahead in this adverse conditions and take the State of Maharashtra on the path of progress.

Taking into consideration, the limited resources available, I have decided to implement new and innovative options and methods to augment these

resources. For this, I am tapping some unconventional revenue sources such as charging premium fee linked to the market value of land for change in purpose of the land, additional F.S.I. etc., I have taken care that none of the burden through these measures will fall on the citizens and tax payers.

If you analyse the last year's budget, you will find that although the plan was finalised at Rs 51022.54 crore but it is a fact that the funds were not made available to that extent. Today, while presenting the plan of Rs 54999 crore, I will definitely try to make available each and every pie of it. The utilisation of the available funds will be done with the clear view that we are the Trustees of the people of Maharashtra and therefore, today's budget is not expenditure based budget but it is target oriented budget. And for that I am announcing long term and ambitious measures today. The schemes and projects which are sponsored by the State Government will be henceforth monitored through Evidence Based Photography, for which separate Control Room will be established at Manatralaya level.

For overall growth of all the sectors and to fulfil the hopes and expectations of the people of Maharashtra, we have to work as 'Team Maharashtra'. and this will include the we in power, the opposition member, Government officers and employees, farmers, traders/business, entrepreneurs/industrialist. We will not politicize the issue of the growth of Maharashtra. We will encourage the Government officers and employees to come up with new innovative ideas to increase the state income, to evolve new sources of income and to reduce the State expenditure and thereby increase our savings and for this a new scheme will be launched to honour such persons.

During last few years, there has been noticeable increase in the suicides among the farmers. These incidences are painful. In order to free the farmers

from the financial crisis, to provide them economical stability and boost their confidence, we have undertaken a new and ambitious project of 'Jalayukt Shivar Abhiyan'. The main reason behind the suicidal attempt of farmers is that they are burdened with the debt from money lenders and therefore, the Government has decided to free the farmers from this burden. The benefit of the scheme which was announced by Central Government in the year 2008 was not extended to the farmers opting for such loans from money lenders. In accordance to the Honourable Chief Minister's announcement during the winter session of 2014, the Government has decided to repay such loans amounting to Rs 156 crore principal amount and its interest of Rs 15 crore which will make around 2 lakh 23 thousand farmers free from the debt burden. In 2014, the farmers in our state have faced various natural calamities like draught, hailstorms, and subsequent unseasonal spell of rain. Hence, to support the farmers, Government has provided a financial assistance of Rupees 4000 crore and relief in electricity bill and exam fee etc. were also been extended.

**Jalayukta
Shivar
Abhiyan.**

1. As I said just a short while before, the Government has decided to implement Jalayukta Shivar project to overcome the water scarcity for drinking and agriculture due to irratic rainfall. Under the project, it is planed to collect the rainwater, ensure its percolation, increasing the groundwater table and building up the water storage in a decentralised manner. This project envisages that every village will consorve water decentralised planing and implementation. This scheme should remain as government scheme but people should feel that it belongs to them. I am sure that through peoples' participation the villages will be freed from water scarcity. For this, an amount of Rs. 1000 crore has been made available through district schemes.

In order to create decentralised water resources through ambitious Cement Nala Bunding chain structures, an outlay of Rs. 500 crore is proposed which is twice the amount as made available during the last year.

An amount of Rs. 100 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under the Planning Department for repairs and renovation of the ex-Malgujari tanks in the district of Gadchiroli, Bhandara, Gondia and Chandrapur.

**Micro
Irrigation
Mission.**

2. Micro Irrigation Programme is being implemented in the State under the centrally sponsored National Micro Irrigation Mission. Around 16 lakh hectares of land has been brought under Micro Irrigation in the year 2013-14. An outlay of Rs.330 crores is proposed for the scheme in 2015-16, which is significantly higher than that of last years outlay Rs 12 crore 50 lakh.

**Motiramji
Lahane
Krushi
Samruddhi
Yojana**

3. Taking into account the large number of suicides in Yavatmal district, the state Government will implement a new pilot project “Motiramji Lahane Krushi Samruddhi Yojana”. Under this scheme through convergence of various agriculture schemes and mechanisation of agriculture, efforts will be made to increase the agricultural productivity. The details of the scheme will be announced in due course. For this, an outlay of Rs. 50 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department.

**Energisation
of
Agricultural
Pump Sets.**

4. While water storages are being created in decentralised manner, it is also important to energise the agricultural pump sets. Presently there has been vast disparity among the districts in number of agricultural pump sets per thousand hectares of agricultural land. This proportion is very low especially in the dry land districts. This is one of the main reasons for the regional disparity in the state. It has been planned to reduce this disparity in the upcoming two years.

Compared to the last year's outlay of Rs. 150 crore for energisation of agricultural pump sets, significantly higher outlay of Rs. 970 crore has been proposed this year.

**Solar
Agricultural
Pump Sets.**

5. It is need of the hour to promote the non-conventional energy sources for long term energy security. Under the Central Government scheme, the State Government has undertaken a pilot project of installation of 7,540 solar agricultural pump sets. It is expected that farmers will get assured electricity supply under the scheme.

**State
Employment
Guarantee
Scheme
and
Mahatma
Gandhi
National
Employment
Guarantee
Scheme.**

6. Employment generation programmes such as Jawahar Wells, Farm Ponds, Horticulture are being implemented in the State under the State Employment Guarantee Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme. Through these schemes, the adults in rural areas who are willing to do unskilled work are provided employment. Besides, various works have been started in the C Class Municipal Councils under the State Employment Guarantee Scheme. An outlay of Rs.700 crore is proposed for the state Employment Guarantee Scheme and Rs.1948.80 crore is proposed towards to state share under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme during the year 2015-16.

**Agricultural
Develop-
ment.**

7. Annual growth rate of 4 percent in agriculture sector is the main objective of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana in order to make improvements in agriculture and allied sectors. I propose an outlay of Rs.336 crore for this scheme. Also, an outlay of Rs.257 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16 for National Food Security Mission, Agricultural Extension and Technology Mission and Horticulture Development Mission. For providing protection from hailstorms, financial assistance will be provided to grape farmers to purchase Shednet.

Preservation and Conservation of Local seeds. 8. It is proposed to take measures to scientifically preserve and develop the good quality traditional and locally preserved seeds by the farmers through gene bank system. For this purpose, an outlay of Rs 10 crore is earmarked for the year 2015-16 from the outlay undistributed under planning Department.

Modernisation of Animal Husbandry Institutes and Fodder Development Programme. 9. An outlay of Rs 140.92 crore is proposed in 2015-16, for modernisation of Animal Husbandry Institutes and Fodder Development Programme

Mechanisation of Fisheries Vessels and Development of Fisheries Jetties. 10. Financial assistance is provided for mechanisation of fisheries vessels through National Cooperative Development Corporation. For this Rs.13.25 crore is proposed in year 2015-16. Also, construction of jetties under NABARD assisted Rural Infrastructure Development Fund have been undertaken in the district of Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Thane, Palghar and Mumbai. For this Rs. 20 crore is proposed in 2015-16.

Irrigation. 11. There have been huge escalation in cost of many irrigation projects due to time over runs. Therefore, there is no direct benefits to farmers in spite of very high expenditure on such projects. For this, the Government has decided to draw a time bound implementation plan by precise technical and financial planning.

An outlay of Rs.7,272 crore is proposed for Water Resources Department in the year 2015-16 and 38 irrigation projects is planned to be completed during this year. As a result, 700 Million Cubic Liter water storages will be created and 69 thousand hectare land will be brought under irrigation.

Mukhya-mantri Gramin Marg Yojana. 12. The deteriorating conditions of roads in rural areas of the State is a cause for concern. In order to have better communication facility for rural population

by repairing of the roads, the State Government has taken decision to launch ambitious scheme of 'Mukhyamantri Gramin Marg Yojana'. Under the

**Pradhan-
mantri
Gram
Sadak
Yojana.**

**Road
Develop-
ment.**

**Aamdar
Adarsh
Gaon
Yojana.**

In the next 5 years around 1000 villages will be developed through this scheme. An outlay of Rs. 25 crore is earmarked for this purpose from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department.

Power Generation.

16. An outlay of Rs.535.34 crore is proposed for power generation projects in the year 2015-16.

Infrastructure Plan.

17. In order to upgrade the capacity of power distribution network, have assured and quality power supply and providing new connections, Infrastructure Plan-2 Scheme has been formulated. Special attention will provided to regions of Vidharbh and Marathwada as these areas have low level of development. An outlay of Rs.538.83 crore is proposed in 2015-16 for this purpose.

Hydal Projects.

18. Keeping in view the increasing need of power for industrialisation and agriculture and stabilisation of high tension lines grids, it is necessary to give emphasis on generation of hydal power. An outlay of Rs.900 crores is proposed in the year 2015-16 for for hydal projects.

Reasonable Power - Tariff.

19. The Government is doing its best to keep their power tariff reasonable by taking long term and effective measures to reduce the expenditure of Government companies engaged in Generation, Transmission and Distribution.

Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Gharkul Jaga Kharedi Arthasahayya Yojana.

20. The Government has accorded priority for providing shelters to families under poverty line in the state. At present there are over 2 lakhs eligible beneficiaries in the state who do not have their own land. They are not able to take benefit of the shelter scheme on account of not having their own land to construct the shelter. For those families, the Government has launched a new scheme named 'Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Gharkul Jaga Kharedi Arthasahayya Yojana'

under which assistance upto Rs.50,000 will be made available to them. For this purpose, an outlay of Rs.200 crores is earmarked.

Shelter to All.

21. The Government has fixed target of constructing one lakh good quality houses which toilet facilities under the schemes of Indira Awas Yojana, Ramai Awas Yojana, Shabari Adivasi Gharkul Yojana and Rajiv Gandhi Nivara Yojana using new technology. For this, an outlay of Rs.884.46 crore is proposed in 2015-16

In order to provide affordable houses to slum dwellers and middle class families, the State Government will bring new housing policy. It will be the endeavour of this State government that no person in the State will remain homeless by the end of 2022.

Keeping in view the increasing urbanisation in the State, it is imperative to address issue of civic facilities for the urban population. It is the endeavour of the Government to provide high quality civic facilities to the population in urban areas.

**Colaba-Bandra-
Seepz
Metro.**

22. A Special Purpose Vehicle Company has been set up to give impetus to progress of Mumbai Metro Line 3 Project. An outlay of Rs.109.60 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16 for this project.

**Nagpur
and Pune
Metro
Rail
Projects.**

23. In order to give impetus to the progress of Nagpur and Pune Metro Railway Project, an outlay of Rs.197.69 crore and Rs.174 .99 crore respectively is proposed in the year 2015-16.

**Smart
Cities.**

24. To cope up with the urbanisation and to attract investments, it is necessary to develop cities by creating physical and social infrastructure. Accordingly, Smart Cities development concept will be implemented. In order to take up more cities in the state under the scheme of the Central Government, an outlay of Rs.268 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16.

Swachchha Bharat Abhiyan. 25. With a view to keep all cities and towns in the country clean, healthy and habitable and to give clean and healthy environment to the people, the Government of India has launched 'Swachchha Bharat Abhiyan'. To implement this scheme in the State, an outlay of Rs.320 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16. Like wise to implement this scheme in rural areas, an outlay of Rs 490.49 crore is proposed as the state share.

Maharashtra Sujal Va Nirmal Abhiyan. 26. Under Maharashtra Sujal Va Nirmal Abhiyan, 257 water supply and sewerage schemes have been approved. For this, an outlay of Rs 80.50 crore is proposed in 2015-16 and if required an additional funds will be made available.

Maharashtra Suvarnajayanti Nagaroththhan Mahabhiyan. 27. Maharashtra Suvarnajayanti Nagaroththhan Mahabhiyan is being implemented in all "D" Class Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Municipal Councils in the State. For this, an outlay of Rs.600 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16.

Renovation of Bus Depots. 28. Roads, transport, railways, ports and airports are the foundation of long term development of the State and it is necessary to give emphasis on development of these amenities.

Taking in consideration, the deterioration in the conditions of State Transport buses and depots, the Government is taking up pilot project of renovation of State Transport Depots at the regional head quarters of Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur. The State Government also intends to procure new buses for the State Transport. For this, an outlay of Rs.16.40 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16 and besides this Rs.125 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department.

Municipal Coperations in the State will be encouraged to use bio fuel for transportation services to protect the environment. Also usage of E-taxis with ladies driver will be promoted for conveyance of school going children.

- Railway Projects.** 29. To expedite the railway projects in Maharashtra, the State Government has approved in principle to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle with equity participation of the State Government and Ministry of Railways. For railway projects under construction, an outlay of Rs.68.60 crore is proposed.
- Development of Jaigad Port.** 30. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Maharashtra Meritime Board, Konkan Railway Corporation and Port Developer to provide rail connectivity to Jaigad Port.
- Development of Airports and Airstrips.** 31. An outlay of 91 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16 for development, inspection and maintenance of airstrips under Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation at Ozar, Kolhapur, Akola, Shirdi, Karad, Amravati, Solapur, Chandrapur etc.
- Make in Maharashtra** 32. The State Government has launched a unique programme called 'Make in Maharashtra' with an objective of retaining the premium position of the State in industrial development and economic progress of the State. Under the programme, the investors who are willing to invest in the State will benefit by simplified and easier procedures while obtaining various permissions to start an industry thereby reducing the time required to complete various procedures.
- Mihan Project.** 33. An outlay of Rs. 200 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16 for land acquisition and rehabilitation for Mihan Project.
- Graded Package Scheme of Incentive.** 34. 25 mega projects have been approved in the year 2014-15 in which investments of Rs.13166 crore with employment opportunities to 13988 persons is expected. For this, an outlay of Rs.30150 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16.
- Industrial Cluster Development Scheme.** 35. Industrial Cluster Development scheme has been started to boost development of industrially backward areas. For this, an outlay of Rs 26.50 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16.

Development of Textile Industry. 36. An outlay of Rs.59.66 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16 towards interest subsidy of 5 to 7 percent on long term loan of the eligible textile industrial units in the State under the Textile Policy.

Also an outlay of Rs.28 crore is proposed towards 10 percent capital subsidy on the long term loan of eligible textile industrial units in Vidarbha, Marathwada and North Maharashtra.

For the regular scheme of power subsidy to power looms an outlay of Rs. 1232.53 crore is proposed.

Incentive subsidy to Cashewnut Processing Units. 37. The cashewnut processing units in the Konkan Region, is provided incentive subsidy of the amount of value added tax paid by them on the cashewnut finally sold by them out of the produced and processed cashewnut. For this, an outlay of of Rs.5 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16.

Maharashtra Gharelu Kamgar Welfare Board. 38. Maharashtra Gharelu Kamgar Welfare Board has been established to implement various welfare schemes for domestic labours. For this, an outlay of Rs.20 crore is proposed in the year 2015-16.

Nashik Sinhasth Kumbh Mela. 39. Sinhasth Kumbh Mela will commenced in Nashik Trimbakeshwar in the year 2015-16. A plan of Rs.2 thousand 378.73 crore has been approved including works of construction of ghat on the Godavari River bank, approach road, temporary shelters etc. Most of these works are nearing completion and the remaining works are planned to be finished soon.

Development of Pilgrimage Centres. 40. For the development of following pilgrimage places namely Haji Ali Dargah, Mumbai, Tajuddinbaba Dargah, Nagpur, Shri Bhimashankar, Dist.Pune, Shri Trimbakeshwar, Dist.Nashik, Shri Parali Vajjnath, Dist Beed, Shri Aundha Nagnath, Dist Hingoli, Shri Ghrushneshwar, Dist Aurangabad, 5 Jyotirlinge and Jejuri, Dist Pune, Karvirvasini Shri Mahalaxmi Devasthan, Kolhapur, Shri Kshetra Mahurgad, Dist

Nanded, Shri Kshetra Akkalkot, Dist Solapur, Shri Shani Shingnapur, Dist Ahmednagar and Shri Mahalaxmi Jagdamba Mandir Koradi, Dist Nagpur, Shri Kshetra Loni, Dist.Washim, Shri Kshetra Riddhapur, Dist. Amravati and Shri Kshetra Nira Narsingpur, Dist. Pune an additional outlay of Rs. 125 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department besde regular outlay.

**Dr.Babasab
Ambedkar
memorial,
Nagpur.**

41. Next year, on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar a Memorial and Training Centre in his honour will be built at Kamptee, district Nagpur. For this, an outlay of Rs. 10 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department.

**Conservation
and
Protection of
Forts.**

42. A comprehensive master plan is being prepared for the conservation and preservation of the forts in the State and for development of people centric tourism. This year 10 important forts have been chosen for the integrated development and consevation programme. These forts will be provided with basic amenities along with Tourist Information Centre. Maintaining cleanliness in the area and aforestation will be done through the Joint Forest Management Committee.

Sound and Light Show will be organised in few selected forts. This year 'Raigad Mahotsav' will be held at Raigad Fort.

An outlay of Rs.50 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department.

**Establishment
of Nisarg
Paryatan
Vikas
Mandal.**

43 Maharashtra is blessed with fabulous natural beauty. There is therefore a lot more scope for tourism in Maharashtra. Keeping in view the importance of tourism in employment generation and improving the livelihood of the local population, it is the endeavour of the government to promot and develop tourism.

The Government has decided to establish Nisarg Paryatan Vikas Mandal with the objective of development of the tourism in forest areas, conservation of biodiversity and also for improving the livelihood of the local people who are depending on the forest for their livelihood. For this an outlay of Rs.50 lakh is proposed for meeting initial expenditure.

Konkan Gramin Paryatan Vikas Programme. 44. Konkan region of Maharashtra has a vast coastline of 720 kms. Keeping this in mind an outlay of Rs. 42 crore is proposed for beach tourism in year 2015-16

Chanda and Banda Paryatan Vikas. 45. Chandrapur and Sindhudurg, far off places in the state, are blessed with mineral and natural boundries. A special programme of integrated planning and implementation will be executed to have optimum use of these natural resources. Accordingly, botanical garden will be developed on similar lines as that of Banglore in Ballarpur, district Chandrapur. For tourism development in Sindhudurg district, a special programme is being developed. The district tourism plan of Sindhudurg is proposed to be submitted to World Bank/ Asian Development Bank for financial assistance. The proposed project of Sea-world in Sindhudurg district will be provided with required funds. A request has been made to Ministry of Tourism, Government of India to provide financial assistance to the said project which has also been earmarked for the assistance. A skill development training centre is also proposed under the project.

Facilities on the Transit Routes. 46. Various amenities like direction indicators, washrooms of international standards, potable drinking water and refreshment places will be developed on the transit route for the local and foreign tourist visiting various tourist centres in maharashtra. For the development of tourism amenities at Mumbai, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Aurangabad, Buldhana, Kolhapur etc. an outlay of Rs. 2.25 crore is proposed in 2015-16. Beside this an outlay of Rs.50 crore is also earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department

**Environment
Conservation.**

47. In 2015-16 an outlay of 9.10 crore is proposed for the ongoing works of tanks under the Rashtriya Sarovar Sanvrdhan Programme at Solapur, Dhule, Nandurbar, Nagpur, Sangli, Kolhapur, Sindhurdurg, Chandrapur, Thane, Raigad, Latur, Ahmednagar, Satara and Pune. Keeping in view, the importance of environment of the local place, it has been proposed to organise various programmes of environment protection and conservation, climate change action plan and awareness programmes. Required outlay will be made available for this purpose.

**Tadoba
Aandhari
Tiger
Projects
Gorewada
and Sanjay
Gandhi
National
Park
Project
Develop-
ment.**

48. Development of integrated wild life protected zone and tourism facilities of international standards similar to that of Masaiemara is proposed at Sanjay Gandhi national park, Tadoba-Aandhari Tiger reserve and Gorewada zoological park. Biodigester toilet, drinking water facilities will be provided to to the tourist on Jungle sufaries. Also forest tourism centres will be developed at these destinations. An outlay of Rs. 91 crore is proposed in 2015-16. An additional outlay of Rs.100 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department

**Uttamrao
Patil Van
Udyan.**

49. The Government through the Social Forestry Department intends to develop parks named 'Uttamrao Patil Forest park' in every district. In these parks, it is proposed to develop plantations of local varieties of plants. Also, there will be Forest and Environment Centre and Nisarg Parichay Kendra in the parks. For this, an outlay of Rs.20 crore is proposed.

**High-tech
Nurseries.**

50. Nurseries based on advance tecnologies will be developed in every district on the state and for this an outlay of 18 crore is proposed in 2015-16.

- Maharashtra Rajya Aushadhi Vanaspati Va Akashtha Vanopaj Sahakari Sangh.** 51. In order to effectively implement PESA Act 1996 and Forest Rights Act 2006, it is proposed to establish a three tier Cooperative federation. Through this authority it will be possible to regulate the collection, grading, storage, selling of medicinal plants, aromatic trees like Tendu etc. Also it will enable local population to get reasonable price for their produce. For this, an outlay of Rs.50 lakh is proposed to meet the preliminary expenses.
- Foundation of Maharashtra State Bamboo Development Board.** 52. State government has recently announced the Bamboo Policy in December 2014. To promote the small-scale industries based on bamboo, Maharashtra State Bamboo Development Board is proposed to be set up. Adequate outlay is proposed to meet out the preliminary expenses.
- Shyamprasad Mukharji Jan Van Viskas Yojana.** 53. The Government intends to bring a new scheme named 'Shyamprasad Mukharji Jan Van Vikas Yojana' with the objective of increasing the forest cover along side the scheduled wild life sanctuaries with public participation. It is also proposed under the scheme that the various schemes of rural, tribal and water conservation departments will be implemented in an integrated manner. An outlay of Rs.25 crore is earmarked for this purpose, from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department
- Establishment of Maharashtra State Zoological Park Authority.** 54. In order to bring uniformity in the management at various zoological park in state and to effectively coordinate with the central wild life authority it is proposed to establish the 'Maharashtra State Zoological Park Authority'. For this required outlay is made available in 2015-16.
- Samuhik Nisarg Sanvardhan.** 55. The concept of collective nature conservation will be implemented to reduce the human wild life conflict and to provide tourism benefits to the residents along side the national parks. It is proposed to implement it on pilot basis through the corporate social responsibility at Gothangaon at the borders of Umred – Karhand sanctuary. Also this project will be implemented in the buffer zone of Tadoba Tiger reserve with Government assistance and funds under Corporate Social Responsibility.

**Skill
Develop-
ment.**

56. The biggest Challenge for the government as well as the present generation is to provide employment opportunities for youth. Today, the youth is not interested to live on the doles provided by government. Naturally there is usually urge in today's youth to pursue some employment and to prove to be a productive member of family and the society. To empower the youth to successfully build their future, it is necessary to incorporate the skill development in traditional learning system. Honourable Prime minister Shri Narendra Modi has presented the concept of 'Skill India'. On similar lines, with objective of skill Maharashtra, the State Government has established a new department called Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department.

Currently there are some schemes for skill development and self employment assistance. After evaluation of these schemes and if required by merging of these schemes the state government has decided to implement a comprehensive "Promod Mahajan Skill Development Programme".

Under this scheme, the youth will be trained in their areas of work or interest/ aptitude and every year 5 lakh youth will undergo training in ITI and private training centers and 75% of them will get assured jobs.

Special focus will be given to the areas like construction manufacturing, textiles, automobiles health services, banking, industrial, medicinal production, agri processing etc. We will strive to reach maximum youth through this medium. The government proposes to establish skill development center in every district and transform the ITI centers into skill development center in the districts. The details of the said scheme will be announced in due course. The government will do its best for effective implementation of this scheme. For this, an outlay of Rs. 161.84 crore is proposed to the newly created Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department.

- Establishment of Research and Training Centre.** 57. The State government has decided, following the thoughts of father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi and to establish research and training centre at Sevagram district Vardha to promote village industries, cottage industries and handicraft industries. An outlay of Rs.25 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department
- Implementation of Sports Policy.** 58. Though the new sports policy was announced in 2012 but it was not implemented to the extent it should have been. The State Government will now effectively implement this policy.
- Gyms For Youth.** 59. Keeping in view the importance of physical exercise, public gyms will be established for the sports person and youth in a phased manner at district sport complex or municipal gardens. For this, funds will be made available. In 2015-16 an outlay of 50 crore is proposed for construction of sports complexes at taluka and district levels.
- Hostels for Girls.** 60. In order to reduce the drop out rate of girls in Secondary schools, the Government has a scheme of construction of hostels for girls. For this, an outlay of Rs.112.52 crore is proposed for the year 2015-16, which in comparison is twice the outlay made available last year.
- Construction of Protection Wall For Government Women Hostels.** 61. It is planned to construct protection walls for all government Girl's hostels in a phased manner. An outlay of Rs.25 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department. The government has decided to construct the protection walls in all the girl's hostels in the 3 years period.
- Sarv Siksha Abhiyan.** 62. Although every year more than 30 thousand crore is spend on elementary education, the quality of education is a matter of concern. The government is committed to provide value based quality education.

Emphasis will be given on evaluation of teachers and examination system. In addition, biometric attendance system will be introduced for both the students and the teachers. Government will take all care to ensure that no child is deprived of education and it will remain the priority of the Government in the future.

Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan is a programme for quality education and all-round development of children in the age group of 6 to 14 years. This programme is the vehicle through which the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 is being implemented. An outlay of Rs. 1,690.56 crore is proposed for this programme.

Modernisation of J. J. School of Art, Mumbai and Other Art Colleges. 63. It is proposed to modernise J.J. School of Art Mumbai, and other Art colleges to improve the quality of Art education. An outlay Rs. 10 crore has been earmarked out of the undistributed outlay under the Planning Department. It is also proposed to set up School of Planning and Architecture of international standard at Aurangabad.

National Institute of Pharmacy Education and Research. 64. It is proposed to establish a National Institute of Pharmacy Education and Research at Nagpur with the objective of developing professionally qualified and skilled man power and improve research in this field through use of advanced technology and reach of the benefits of the same to the common people.

Assistance to the civil services aspirants and Study rooms at district headquarters. 65. It is proposed to provide assistance to candidates for training for the Civil Services (Main) examination and interview in order to improve the success ratio of candidates of Maharashtra. Further study rooms with reference books facilities will be provided at district headquarters to help students. The Pre IAS Training Centre at Kolhapur and Nagpur will be strengthened. An outlay of Rs.20 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department

Upgradation of Post-graduation medical courses. 66. The upgradation of post graduation medical course programme has been undertaken at the government medical colleges of Pune, Aurangabad, Akola, Ambejogai, Solapur, Miraj, Sangli, Dhule, Yavatmal, Latur and Nagpur. The upgradation is been done by providing the medical colleges with additional facilities. An outlay of Rs. 20 crore is proposed in 2015-16 for this purpose.

Construction of Medical College Buildings. 67. An outlay of 35 crore is proposed for constructions and other primary facilities in newly established medical colleges at Nandurbar, Mumbai, Alibaug, Satara, Gondia, Baramati and Chandrapur. An additional outlay of Rs.100 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department. And comprehensive master plan has been prepared for developing the government medical college at Nagpur and steps are being taken for its implementation.

A proposal of a high-rised super speciality hospital building at Sir J.J.Hospital, Mumbai is approved. Although, this project was pending for a long time, waiting for the approval from the highrised committee, now the approval for the building has been accorded by amending the law appropriately. It will now get empetus in its implementation. An additional 1000 beds will be made available through this project.

National Health Mission. 68. The National Rural Health Mission, National Urban Health Mission and other 11 disease control programmes, have been merged in the National Health Mission. Reducing the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate, the Mission includes programmes of increasing the availability of health facilities, prevention and control of noncontagious disease are the components of the programme. In 2015-16 an outlay of 1996.48 crore is proposed for this programme.

Rajiv Gandhi Jivandayi Arogya Yojana . 69. The eligible beneficiaries under this scheme are entitled for a free treatment for 971 notified diseases. In 2015-16 an outlay of Rs.300 crore is proposed for this programme.

New-Born Infant Ambulance. 70. It is planned to provide 70 new born infant ambulances to reduce the mortality rate of new born sick infant. For this required funds will made available.

Construction of Health Institution. 71. An outlay of Rs.181.36 crore is proposed for construction of health institutions in urban areas, Rs.47 crore for rural hospitals, Rs. 112 crore for the rural hospitals under the backlog, and Rs.49.56 crore for primary health centres and its sub centres totalling Rs. 389.92 crore in 2015-16

Empowerment of Women Self Help Groups. 72. It is endeavour of the Government to empowers women and make them stand on their own feet. For this, micro credit is very essential component.

The Government intends to use local agricultural produce to provide quality supplementary nutrition under various programmes. Women self help groups will be assisted to purchase equipment for producing quality supplementary nutrition products. Similarly, a new scheme named 'Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Market Place' will be launched to set up permanent markets at each district headquarters for providing the outlet for sale of goods produced by such Self Help Groups. An outlay of Rs.200 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department

Honorarium to the Anganwadi Workers. 73. The hike in the allowances of the Anganwadi Workers, Mini Anganwadi worker and helpers will come into effect from 1st April 2015

Mazi Kanya Bhagyashree Yojana. 74. A new scheme named 'Mazi Kanya Bhagyashree Yojana' on similar lines to that of Central governments scheme of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' is launched in the state. An outlay of Rs.200 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department

- Share Capital to the Moulana Azad Minority Development Board.** 75. An outlay 75 crore is proposed in 2015-16 towards share capital contribution to Moulana Azad Minority Development Board. An outlay of Rs.75 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department. Through this programme loans will be made available to employment, self-employment training activities of women.
- Rural area development programme for minorities.** 76. The Rural area development programme for minorities is implemented to provide basic amenities to the rural minority population and to improve their living standards. In 2015-16 an outlay of Rs.25 crore is proposed for this programme. The Government also intends to implement this scheme in the urban areas of Bhiwandi, Malegaon and Miraj.
- Scheduled Caste Sub Plan.** 77. An outlay of Rs.6490 crore is proposed for the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan in proportion to its population ratio. Out of this amount, Rs. 2400 crore is allotted to district programmes and Rs. 4090 crore to state level programmes. An outlay of Rs. 175 crore 52 lakh for health services, Rs. 320 crore for Ramai Gharkul Gramin Yojana, Rs. 225 crore for setting up government hostels and Rs. 100 crore for residential schools has been proposed under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan.
- Special Assistance Scheme.** 78. Under the special assistance scheme financial help is provided to the old age, unfounded, widows, handicapped categories through Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and Shravanbal Seva Nivrutti Vetan Yojana. A provision of Rs. 1451.50 crore is made in 2015-16
- Tribal Area Sub Plan.** 79. An outlay of Rs. 4170 crore is proposed for the Tribal Area Sub Plan in proportion to its population ratio. It includes Rs. 46 crore for Indira Aawas Yojana, Rs. 519 crore 14 lakh for road development Rs. 130 crore 32 lakh for electrification, Rs. 293 crore 19 lakh for public health Rs. 242 crore for tribal pre-secondary scholarships scheme and Rs. 70 crore as state share for Central Government Scholarship scheme

- Direct Fund Transfer to Gram-panchayat from Tribal Sub plan.** 80. From year 2015-16, 5% of the total provision of the Tribal Development Department, will be transferred directly to the Grampanchayats as untied funds. This fund will be in proportion to the population of the villages. Maharashtra will be the 1st state in the country to implement this scheme. Under this scheme basic facilities like maintenance of road, sewage disposal, forest conservation works will be undertaken. These works will be carried out by the Joint Forest management/Village Forest/Eco Development Committee and with the approval of the Gramsabha.
- Installation of CCTV Cameras at Amravati, Aurangabad Nashik and Nagpur.** 81. I am happy to state that process of installation of CCTV in Mumbai has now geared up. In addition, the Government intends to install CCTVs at Amravati, Aurangabad, Nashik and Nagpur cities.
- Cyber Crime.** 82. Cyber crimes have been showing increasing trend day by day. It is proposed to set up cyber crime labs in each district to control such criminals. An outlay of Rs.18 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department
- Smart Police Station and Colonies.** 83. Government intends to provide modern amenities in Police stations and colonies. Lakkadganj Police Station and colony will be developed as the first smart police station and colony. Necessary funds will be made available for this programme.
- Judicial Infrastructure Facilities.** 84. The Government implement the scheme to construct Court building and residential quarters for judges. An outlay of Rs. 413.60 crore is proposed for this purpose.
- Digital Maharashtra.** 85. The 21st Century is the age of digital technology. Government intends to implement the idea of digital Maharashtra not only to improve the facilities in government offices but also to make available more information to the people more easily, improve security and provide facilities to people. An outlay of Rs. 10 crore is proposed for this purpose.
- Direct Benefit Transfer.** 86. Maharashtra is at the forefront in the implementation of AADHAR enrolment. It is proposed to link various schemes with the bank account under Jan Dhan Yojana, AADHAR and Mobile number (JAM) and transfer directly into the bank account of

beneficiaries. This will reduce the leakages and bringing transferancy. All scholarships and fee reimbursement will also be directly transferred to bank accounts of the beneficiaries after using biometric identification.

**Use of
Biometric
Verification
In Public
Distribution
System.**

87. The Government has decided to use Biometric in Public Distribution System to curb the malpractices. An outlay of Rs. 23 crore is proposed for this purpose.

**Setting up
Drama
Theatres at
District
Level.**

88. An outlay of Rs. 5 crore is earmarked for setting up of theatres in every district to promote aspiring artists and to carry forward our cultural tradition. Every district in Maharashtra will have well equipped theatre during the period of next 5 years.

**Digitization
of Folk Art
and Music
Instruments.**

89. It is proposed to digitise folk art and folk music instruments which are on the verge of extinction. An outlay of Rs.70 lakh is proposed for this purpose in 2015-16

**Chatrapati
Shivaji
Maharaj
Memorial
and
Bharatratna
Dr.**

90. The history of our state and our country is interlinked to the lives of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Bharatratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. An outlay of Rs.100 crore is proposed for the construction of Chhatrapati Shivaji memorial in Arabian sea.

**Babasaheb
Ambedkar
Memorial.**

A monument of Bharatratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar will be set up at the site of Indu Mill,. a centrally located place in Mumbai. Necessary funds will be made available for this purpose.

Late Shri Balasaheb Thakare and late shri Gopinath Munde have made invaluable contribution in political and social fields. New monuments are proposed to be set up in their memories, at Mumbai and Aurangabad respectively.

**Maintenance
of Memorials
of Martyrs
and Revolu-
tionaries.**

91. This memorials of brave fighters, martyrs are always inspirational to our generation.

The worsening condition of their memorials is matter of concern to our society. An outlay of Rs. 25 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department for the renovation of these memorials.

Monuments of Great Persons. 92. The government will construct the monuments of Hutatma Rajguru, Krantivir Lahuji Salve, Veer Baburao Puleshwar Shedmake. It is also proposed to develop Samadhithal of Shri Sant Sevalal Maharaj, Poharadevi district Washim, Sant Mungsaji Maharaj samadhithal, Dhamangaon Dev district Yavatmal, Jagat Jyoti Mahatma Basaveswar, Mangalveda district Solapur and Rastrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Tapobhumi Gondoda, taluka Chimur, district Chandrapur. An outlay of Rs. 11.70 crore is proposed for this purpose. An additional outlay of Rs.20 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department

Monuments of Paramveer Chakra awardees. 93. The martyrs of the Indian Defence Forces are honored with Parmveer Chakra. The government is keen to setup the monuments of these awardees at Mumbai. An outlay of Rs.5 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department. An essay competition involving attractive prizes will be held in the memory of these great persons.

Marathi Language and its promotion and dissemination and digitization of rare texts. 94. The government has undertaken digitization of 956 rare texts and conversion of the historical records available in devnagari scripts. Also the digitization of rare texts, important news papers available at state libraries will be done. In 2015-16 Rs. 14.71 crore outlay is proposed for this purpose.

Digitization of Asiatic Library. 95. An outlay of Rs.5 crore is earmarked from the outlay undistributed under Planning Department for the digitization of well-known Asiatic Library in Mumbai.

Evaluation of the Acts, Rules. 96. The government will set up an Evaluation Committee as pilot project to evaluate the presently existing acts, governments resolutions and schemes to classify them and remove if unwanted.

I am confident that the state will achieve a double digit growth rate on account of various programmes proposed herewith. The favourable conditions for industries and trade, best quality infrastructure facilities and financial management, I am confident with the stability in agricultural sector, the agriculture will achieve a growth rate beyond 6% percent.

Yesterday I have presented the detailed Economic Survey Report in the house. Without dwelling on this in detail, I will briefly mention some of the important points.

**Macro
Economic
Review
and State
Income.**

97. According to the advance estimates, during 2014-15, Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant (2004-05) prices is expected to increase by 5.7% over the previous year. During 2013-14 the GSDP increased by 7.3 per cent over the previous year. Central Statistical Office, GoI has revised the base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12 this year. Due to the new series this rate may need some revision. The per Capita State Income for the year 2013-14 is estimated at Rs. 1,17,091. The estimated Per Capita National Income according to the revised series. Rs. 80388.

The inflation rate based on average All-India Wholesale Price Index for the period April 2014 to February, 2015 was 2.46 per cent as against 5.98 per cent of the corresponding period of the previous year.

The average All India Index of Industrial Production (Base year 2004-05) for the period April, 2014 to January, 2015 was 174.0 which was higher by 2.5 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year.

**State
Annual
Plan.**

98. The size of annual plan 2015-16 is proposed at Rs. 54999 crore. Rs. 6490 crore are assigned for the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan which is in proportion with population of the scheduled caste (11.8 percent) and Rs. 5170 crore (9.4%) are earmarked for Tribal Area Sub Plan. District annual scheme has been earmarked at Rs.7127 crore 93 lakh which is significantly higher by Rs. 1225 crore 93 lakh compared to that of the previous year.

Recently we have received the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. The 14th Finance Commission has recommended the increase in the tax devolution of the states from 32 to 42 per cent. The inter-se share of Maharashtra in union taxes is increased from 5.199 % to 5.521%. The grant-in-aid for the rural and urban local bodies have been increased significantly.

Also there is an increase in state disaster response fund. Accordingly there is an change in the centrally assisted scheme ratio. The impact of the recommendations on the funding pattern through centrally sponsored scheme is still unclear and can not be assessed in current situation. Therefore in accordance with the guidelines issued by Central Government for Centre and State Share in future necessary fund will be made available through reappropriation and supplementary demands

**Financial
Position of
the State.**

99. In June 2014 while presenting the supplementary budget a revenue receipt of 1 lakh 80 thousand 320 crore was expected. Which is revised in RE at Rs. 1 lakh 794 crore keeping in view the trends in revenue receipts. In the beginning of the year the estimated revenue expenditure was Rs. 1 lakh 84 thousand 423 crore which is now revised at Rs. 1 lakh 94 thousand 677 crore. As a result the revenue deficit which was at Rs. 4103 crore has increased to Rs. 13883 crore. This revenue deficit is mainly due to the industrial power bill subsidy, relief packages announced to drought affected farmers.

In budget 2015-16 the revenue receipt is estimated at Rs. 1 lakh 98 thousand 230 crore and the revenue expenditure is estimated at Rs. 1 lakh 988 crore. As a result a revenue deficit of Rs 3757 crore is indicated. I will try to minimize this deficit through savings by reducing wasteful expenditure and effective revenue recoveries.

I want to assure the public of the state through this sovereign and august House while concluding budget presentation that I will do my best not to cut any outlays which have been allotted to various sections of society. I also assure the people of the state through this august House that we will do our best to achieve the objectives that we have set for development of the state.

Now I turn to Part II of the Budget.

Speaker Sir,

I now present Part II of the Budget before the House.

I have firm belief that the tax collection system should be simple, easy and business friendly, however, it should also be a deterrent to the tax avoider. The reforms will be carried out in the system of tax collection to provide e-services to the tax payer, expeditious grant of refunds and unlocking of the capital. This system will create a favorable environment and provide "Ease of doing Business". This will also enhance tax collections. The target of tax collection for the year 2014-15 was at rupees one lac and Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Forty crore. I am confident of achieving the target of tax collection.

**Goods and
Services
Tax.**

2. The Constitution Amendment Bill required for introduction of Goods and Services Tax has been tabled in the Lok-sabha. Goods and Services Tax is expected to be implemented from 1st April, 2016. This tax system will bring about fundamental change in Indirect Tax system of India. The implementation of Goods and Services Tax will create a unified and harmonized market in India. The commodities produced in India will become globally competitive. I am confident that Goods and Services Tax will boost manufacturing sector and it will accelerate the mission of 'Make in Maharashtra'. Moreover, it will bring simplicity of tax compliance for the tax payers. The State of Maharashtra has always been a forerunner in all progressive reforms. The State has wholeheartedly supported Goods and Services Tax. The State has played a vital role in formulating the business processes proposed under the new tax system and preparatory work required for introduction of new system is under progress.

**Automation
in Sales
Tax.**

3. Automation of tax system is the need of the hour. The processes adopted by Sales Tax Department have been automated to a large extent. The modernization of the computerized system is a continuous process. The State has recently started the new automation project which will help both the business and the department in further simplification. All the processes envisaged under GST are being incorporated in the new software system under development, so it will make hassle free migration of data of existing tax payer to GST system.

**Increase in
FSI
premium.**

4. It is the endeavor of the Government to expeditiously grant permissions for all types of development and construction activities, which will facilitate the business and public at large and also augment Government revenue. The Government has adopted the policy of grant of additional FSI, for industrial and educational purposes, based on road width by charging premium, in the agriculture or no development zones in the approved regional plans, at the level of District Collector. Moreover, procedure is being simplified for change of use for housing and other uses in the regional plan. These changes will facilitate quick availability of these services to the citizens at local level. The Government is also considering allowing additional FSI with premium in the limits of Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils. The Government has also proposed to enhance FSI limit from 0.33 to 0.60 and increase the rate of premium in the Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation limit. It is also under consideration of the Government to enhance the rate of premium on grant of all kinds of additional FSI. These gains in FSI tremendously benefit individuals but Government does not get the benefit of revenue increase in the same proportion. These amendments are proposed to ensure legitimate share of revenue for the Government from the overall benefits accruing to the beneficiaries of FSI without burdening the common man. The Government intends to grant timely permissions, simplify procedures and charge legitimate premium on additional benefits.

This is expected to result in substantial revenue gains for the Government.

Change in rate of Excise duty on Country liquor. 5. In the year 2013, tax structure on country liquor had undergone changes. I suggest further changes to the same. Rate of Excise duty on country liquor would be now 200 per cent of the manufacturing cost or Rs.120 per Proof litre whichever is higher.

Amendments of MVAT Act. 6. Speaker Sir, I propose some amendments to Maharashtra Value Added Tax Act.

Central Government levies Service Tax on the supply of services. There are some composite supplies on which Sales Tax as well as Service Tax is levied. To avoid cascading of tax, it is proposed that Sales Tax will not be levied on Service Tax collected separately.

In Audit or investigation proceedings, the tax payer can file revised return as per findings therein. However, dealer can file revised return only once. It is proposed to relax this condition and to allow multiple revised returns in case of audit findings or investigation proceedings by Sales Tax authorities.

Late fee is attracted in case of a delayed return. This has drastically reduced the number of defaulters in last few years. However, there can be a delay due to genuine reasons. Considering the same, late fee of rupees one thousand is proposed instead of rupees two thousand for delay in filing of return upto one month.

Under Value Added Tax, during any proceeding if a tax payer does not fully discharge his tax liability on any transaction, then assessment proceedings can be initiated. Instead of the existing provision, it is now proposed that assessment can be initiated if there is a reason to believe that the tax payer is not correctly discharging tax liability or is attempting to evade tax on any transaction. It is also proposed to introduce time limit for completion of transactionwise assessment and also provide for cancellation of order if the order is done ex-parte.

Under MVAT Act, tax payer can file revised return for a complete year and pay extra tax. In such cases, instead of present method of computing interest, it is proposed to compute interest with effect from 1st October of the year for which revised return relates. Amendment is also proposed for computation of interest in case of a revised return filed for a period lesser than a year.

Presently, where an appeal or review is being decided under one Act, which has an effect on tax liability under the other Act, which is not subject matter of appeals or review then the concerned authority cannot decide the matter under the other Act. The present provisions need certain technical changes. I propose to make the same.

High Court, approves merger or demerger of the companies, thereafter company is required to apply to the Registrar of Companies. I propose to specify a period of thirty days for making application for registration from the date of notification by the Registrar of Companies and amend present provision regarding cancellation of registration in such cases.

Speaker Sir, Now I Present tax proposal before the House.

Entry Tax. 7. Entry Tax is levied on some goods in order to protect legitimate tax revenue of the State. It is brought to my notice that long steel is being sold directly to the consumers from neighboring States. This has resulted in a loss of legitimate tax revenue of the State. In order to ensure legitimate tax realization on consumption of long steel, I propose to levy a five per cent entry tax on long steel. To avoid double taxation on long steel, set-off will be allowed as per provision.

Tax on wood free Plain and Pre-laminated particle board. 8. Wood free plain and pre-laminated particle board with 'Eco Mark' is taxed at five per cent. As there is no difference between Eco Mark Board and other plywood, I propose to levy twelve and half per cent tax on all types of wood free plain and pre laminated particle boards.

Extention of Tax exemption essential commodities. 9. The State has exempted tax on some of the essential commodities such as rice, wheat, pulses and their flour, turmeric, chilies, tamarind, jaggery, coconut, coriander seeds, fenugreek, parsley (suva), papad, wet dates, solapuri chaddars and towels upto 31st March, 2015. I propose to continue exemption on these items upto 31st March, 2016. The tax exemption on Currants and Raisins will also continue upto 31st March, 2016. The lower rate of five per cent tax on Tea will also continue upto 31stMarch, 2016.

Concession in Tax to women. 10. Presently, Profession Tax is applicable to all persons drawing salary above rupees seven thousand five hundred per month. I enhance the salary limit for levy of Profession Tax upto Rupess Ten Thousand for women. No Profession Tax will be applicable to the women drawing salary upto Rupees Ten Thousand per month. This will benefit nearly One Lac Fifty Thousand employed women in the State.

I propose to reduce sales tax on ladies purse and handbags from twelve and half per cent to five per cent.

Exemption to medicines for treatment of cancer. 11. I propose to exempt certain medicines required for treatment of cancer. A list of such medicines will be notified separately.

Concession in tax on guide wire. 12. I propose to reduce tax on the guide wire required for medical treatment from twelve and half per cent to five per cent.

Concession in tax on LED bulb. 13. Electricity consumption is growing substantially. Saving electricity is need of the hour. LED bulb saves electricity to a great extent. Hence, I propose to reduce tax on LED bulb from twelve and half per cent to five per cent.

Concession in tax rate of cashew shell. 14. The rate of tax on cashew oil is five per cent but tax on cashew shell is twelve and half per cent. This requires the manufacturers to apply for refund as there is a full rebate of input tax credit on raw material. I propose to reduce rate of tax on cashew shell to five per cent considering that input should not be taxed at a higher rate than output.

Certainty in Taxation. 15. Ambiguity in tax rate on any commodity is not conducive to economy. Even if the decision of a judicial forum comes in favour of the tax payer, there remains an uncertainty of the applicable tax rate during the intervening period and if decision comes in favour of Government the concerned trade is burdened with tax, penalty and interest which creates burden on the business. Business should not face such ambiguity. Certainty in taxation is an integral part of an ideal tax system. Considering this, I propose some amendments, to remove ambiguities :—

(i) Exemption from tax to Workbook, Drawing Book, Laboratory Book, Graph Book

Presently, books are exempted from tax, and exercise books, graph books, laboratory note books and drawing books are taxed at five per cent. Workbooks provide reading material and also space for writing. There is dispute regarding rate of tax on Workbook. It is disputed in the assessment as to whether workbook should be treated as book or exercise book or anything else. Some assessments are also pending in appeal.

Considering these aspects, for certainty in future I declare that Workbooks will be tax free from 1st April, 2015. For earlier periods, outcome of judicial forum will be honored. I also declare drawing book, laboratory note book and graph book to be tax free from 1st April, 2015.

(ii) Rate of tax on White Butter

‘Desi Loni’ is subjected to four per cent tax from 1st September, 2005 and five per cent from 1st April, 2010. A question has been raised regarding rate of

tax on White Butter. There is not much difference between White Butter and Desi Loni. Therefore, to remove ambiguity I clarify that White Butter will be taxed at four per cent from 1st September, 2005 and five per cent from 1st April 2010.

(iii) Rate of tax on Paper

Five percent tax is levied on paper. Presently, the entry 70 of Schedule C reads, 70(a) "Paper, newsprint, paper board, waste paper"; 70(b) "All types of paper stationary for computer, carbon paper, ammonia paper". Presently, there is a dispute as to items falling in the description of "Paper" under schedule entry C-70(a). To bring clarity to the entry, items covered under "Paper" will be henceforth notified. Pending proceedings will continue as per directions issued by the Department from time to time.

(iv) Rate of Tax on spices

Rate of tax on spices is five per cent. The entry of spices is 'Spices including cumin seed, asafoetida, aniseed, saffron, pepper and poppy seeds'. Generally tax has been paid at five percent on sale of mixed spices also. There is an ambiguity as to whether mixture of spices will also be covered under the entry of spices or not. The mixture of spices are spices only, hence the schedule entry will be retrospectively amended so as to cover the ready mixture of spices under the entry of spices.

(v) Tax on embroidery thread

Generally, tax on embroidery thread is paid at the rate of sewing thread. There is an ambiguity as to whether embroidery thread is covered in the entry of sewing thread. A retrospective clarification will be provided that tax rate on embroidery thread will be same as that of sewing thread.

**Local Body
Tax.**

16. Speaker Sir, the Government is committed to abolition of Local Body Tax. Due to abolition of Local Body Tax, compensation of rupees six thousand eight hundred seventy five crore will be required to be given to the Municipal Corporations excluding Mumbai. This loss of revenue will be compensated by enhancing rate of tax under Value Added Tax Act. The enhanced rate of tax will be applicable to the whole State. A Revenue Neutral Rate has been recommended considering the share of increased tax collection to be given to the areas where Local Body Tax is not levied.

Mumbai Municipal Corporation gets substantial revenue, by levying Octroi on Crude Oil. This Octroi amount is collected by Oil Companies as part of State Specific Duty from all consumers in the State. This aspect is also required to be taken into account.

Extensive deliberations are required on the enhancement in tax rates under Value Added Tax. The Local Body Tax will be abolished from 1st August, 2015.

The revenue received on account of increase in tax rates under MVAT Act will be assigned to the Municipal Corporations and demand will be tabled on account of grants to be given to other areas, as per requirement.

Speaker Sir, these tax proposals are estimated to result in net revenue gain of rupees Six Hundred Forty Three Crore, which has been incorporated in the Budget Estimates of 2015-16. I hope that honorable members of this august house will support the proposals.

Jai Hind ! Jai Maharashtra !!