

Government of West Bengal

Budget Statement

by

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2015-2016

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Honourable Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the Annual Financial Statement for the Financial Year 2015-16 to this August House.

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The Ma Mati Manush of Bengal has repeatedly bestowed their faith in this Government led by the strong leadership of Mamata Banerjee. People's faith has been affirmed once again during the Parliamentary Elections eight months' ago. People of Bengal have blessed us with 34 seats in the Lok Sabha despite all the malicious and biased propaganda in a section of the media – the common people have given their powerful verdict. Very recently this month, again the people of the State have blessed us in two seats in the bye-election. What can be a better evidence of people's faith in a democratic polity. I Pranam the Ma Mati Manush of Bengal.

As I present the Full Budget, I salute the Honourable Members of this August House belonging to all political parties.

Namaskar, Namaste, As-salam Alaikum.

A. SOME OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE MACRO ECONOMIC FRONT:

Bengal's economy is reaching new heights.

The Government of India has from 2014-15 adopted a new evaluation method for growth determination of the economy. There are different opinions among economists on the new method of evaluation. The basic controversy is due to unexpected growth arrived at for the national economy.

Despite this controversy, in 2014-15 as per the new evaluation method, the Gross Value Added (GVA) of the State registered a 10.48% growth as compared to the country's GVA of 7.5%. Bengal is ahead and will remain ahead.

You are aware that sustainable economic development hinges on asset creating Capital Expenditure. Roads, bridges, drinking water, schools, colleges, hospitals, housing, etc. mostly rely on Capital Expenditure by the Government. When we took office, we were shocked to find that in the year 2010-11 Capital Expenditure grew by Negative (-) 26.08%. In 2011-12, we were able to

reverse this Negative into a Positive (+) 24.17% growth of Capital Expenditure. In the year 2012-13, Capital Expenditure grew by Positive (+) 64.53%. In 2013-14 the growth of Capital Expenditure is 52.33%. Such is the outstanding performance of this people centric Government.

Similar has been the record in Plan Expenditure Growth. When we came to office, Plan Expenditure was a meagre Rs. 14,165.16 crore in 2010-11, which in a span of three years has nearly doubled (Rs. 28,159.37 crore).

B. GRAVE SITUATION OWING TO 'DEBT TRAP'

All of these achievements took place despite the legacy of a massive debt burden amounting to a terrible 'debt trap'. You will be shocked to learn that, in 2013-14 Rs. 28,000 crore was taken away from our Treasury for interest payment and repayment of debt. Since 2011 till January, 2015, more than Rs.1,00,000 crore (Rs.1,02,097.16 crore) have been cut off from the Treasury.

Sir, we are carrying the debt burden left to us by the previous Government. Despite our repeated submission before the Central Government, nothing positive has

come out. We do not want any special favour – this is our right. In the words of Kabiguru:

আমারে তুমি করিবে ত্রাণ এ নহে মোর প্রার্থনা
তরিতে পারি শক্তি যেন রয়।

I would like to mention that we are apprehensive that 100 Days Work Programme for the poor disadvantaged in our society will be curtailed in future. This negative attitude would seriously jeopardise the welfare of the poorest people of Bengal.

Although the 14th Finance Commission has increased the devolution of resources to the States to 42%, which is laudable, but the demand of the State for debt relief has completely been ignored.

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3. SOME UNPRECEDENTED ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOVERNMENT

Since May, 2011, the State has registered outstanding and unprecedented success in different areas. I take this privilege to present before you some of these achievements. A department wise achievement is elaborately covered in Part 4.

3.1 Food and Agri-marketing

The storage capacity of the food grains which was a meagre 40,000 MT in 2011-12 has increased to 3.80 lakh MT in a span of just 3 years, more than **9 times** increase. Like previous year, we are providing 3.2 crore people with subsidised rice at Rs. 2 per Kg and 750 Gm of wheat at Rs. 5 per Kg.

Out of 95 Krishak Bazars taken up in 1st Phase, 84 Krishak Bazars have already been completed.

The operationalisation of Krishak Bazars has opened up new employment opportunities.

Other achievements are covered in detail in Part-4 of the Speech.

3.2 Digitisation of Ration Cards

The targeted public distribution system has been thoroughly overhauled through massive e-Governance and end-to-end computerisation. 91 lakh bogus ration cards have been cancelled. The digitisation of ration cards has touched the figure of 7.80 crores – an unprecedented success.

3.3 100 Days Work

West Bengal occupies first position in the country with regard to expenditure on 100 days work programme.

The State has also set a record in the average annual person-day employment generation. It is sad that inadequate and untimely flow of funds from Government of India is severely affecting this programme.

3.4 Nirmal Bangla Abhiyan:

During the last 3 years, more than 25 lakh toilet facilities have been provided to individual households, schools and aaganwadis. (Households-24,35,105; Schools- 83,583;Aaganwadi-30,000).

3.5 Housing for the poor

We have almost **3 times** increased the construction of houses for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). The number of beneficiaries under 'Gitanjali' and 'Aamar Thikana' Housing Schemes has increased to 93,852. The expenditure on EWS housing has also **increased 7.5 times**.

3.6 Nijo Griho Nijo Bhumi

Extraordinary progress has been made in the Hon'ble Chief Minister's dream project 'Nijo Griho Nijo Bhumi' for providing housing to the homeless. Within a very short span, more than 2 lakh 30 thousand pattas have been distributed among the homeless.

This has also generated huge self-employment opportunities.

3.7 Jal Dharo Jal Bharo

Our Government has taken up an ambitious scheme of water conservation through excavation and re-excavation of water bodies and construction of water harvesting structures. I am happy to inform that within three years more than 1 lakh 18 thousand such water harvesting structures have been created surpassing our own target set in 2011 of creating 50,000 water harvesting structures in 5 years.

This has also created huge employment opportunities.

3.8 Drinking Water

It is unfortunate that in 2010-11 Government expenditure on drinking water was only Rs.470 crores. In 2013-14, the expenditure on drinking water increased by 252% (Rs. 1,658 crores). After we came to power, we have commissioned 615 rural water supply schemes (PWSS) which compared to 2007-2011 is **two times**. This is undoubtedly a remarkable achievement.

3.9 Health

Prior to 2011, only 6 Sick New-Born Care Unit (SNCU) and 95 Sick New-Born Stabilisation Unit (SNSU) were

operational in the State. During the last three years, 43 SNCU and 285 SNSU have been established by us. This is an extraordinary effort in neo-natal care.

Under-graduate seats (including dental) have increased **two times** during the last three years to 2900.

No other State has established Fair Price medicine shops under PPP. We have operationalized 95 fair price medicine shops in the State. You will be happy to know that 1 crore 30 lakh patients have received a discount of Rs. 364 crores – an unparalleled achievement.

The bed strength has increased to 74,507 in the last three years.

8 new Health districts have been created.

These initiatives have generated huge employment opportunities.

Other remarkable achievements are covered in detail in Part-4.

3.10 School Education

Since June 2011, 418 new primary schools and 1438 new upper primary schools have been sanctioned. 1,618 Secondary schools have been upgraded to Higher

Secondary level and 319 Junior High Schools to Secondary level. Apart from this, 3008 new upper primary schools and 85,758 additional class rooms have been constructed. This is indeed a remarkable achievement.

83,583 school toilets have been constructed (50,400- Nirmal Bangla Abhijan and 33,183- School Education) taking the percentage of schools having toilet to 98%.

The plan expenditure has increased two fold in the last three years as compared to corresponding period.

No one could have imagined such a remarkable progress in school education within such a short time.

These developments have opened up new areas of employment opportunities.

3.11 Colleges

Since independence till 2011, the State Government could establish only 32 Government Colleges and 4 Engineering Colleges in the State. The present Government, over just three years, has set up 40 new Government and Government aided colleges of which 18 are already functional and the remaining will be functional within 2015. This initiative is remarkable.

Huge employment opportunities have also been created in this sector.

3.12 Universities

In the field of higher education, since independence till 2012, only 13 universities were established in the State. During the last three years, this Government has set up 13 new universities, 6 state aided and 7 private universities. As a result of these bold initiatives, the state's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of the State has gone up dramatically to 17.6.

Huge employment opportunities have also been created in this sector.

3.13 Vocational Skill Development

You are aware that the Hon'ble Chief Minister is determined to set up one Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in every Block of the State and one Polytechnic in every Sub-division.

It is striking that since Independence till 2011, only 80 ITIs had come up in Bengal. This Government in just three years has operationalized 43 new ITIs and additional 92 ITIs will come up this year. This is a record.

During the same time, while only 62 Polytechnics were built in the State, this Government in a short span of 3 years has set up 34 polytechnics and 32 more Polytechnics are under construction. This is exemplary.

This is for the first time in our history that the highest award in the All India Skill Competition in 2013 of Government of India was bestowed upon the State. You would be happy to know that in 2014 too Bengal has received this award.

Many new areas of employment opportunities have been created.

3.14 Empowering the Minority Communities

Since 2011, 75 lakh students of different minority institutions were provided scholarship of Rs 1392 crore which is almost an **8 times** increase over the comparable period (2007-08 to 2010-11).

In 151 blocks of 16 districts with minority concentration, social infrastructure development projects worth Rs. 1126 crores have been taken up. While only 61 boundary walls of public graveyard were taken up during 2007-08 to 2010-11, in three years we have taken up construction of 1870 boundary walls, an increase of more than **12 times**. Hon'ble Chief Minister has recently inaugurated the New Town Campus of Aliah University being built at a cost of Rs. 236 crores. This magnificent campus is worth seeing.

In addition, substantial expenditure has been made for grant of scholarships, hostels, housing loans,

distribution of bicycles, development of marketing hub, the details of which are elaborately covered in Part-4.

3.15 Empowering the Girl Child

You are aware that the dream project of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Kanyashree Prakalpa has evoked a massive response internationally. It was acclaimed as one of the best practices in Girls' Summit held in July 2014 at London and has received the first prize in the Manthan South Asia and Asia Pacific Award. The scheme has also recently bagged the National e-Governance first Award among states in Citizen-Centric Service. In the meantime, 22 lakh girl students have been registered and 20 lakh have been granted benefits.

We hear high sounding slogan on Girl Child emanating from New Delhi but what Bengal has done, not only the country but the entire world will do tomorrow.

3.16 Empowering the Tribals

On-line system for issuing Caste Certificates is presently operational in 55 Sub-divisions. During last four years, nearly 2.74 lakh ST certificates were issued which is more than 2 times increase as compared to earlier period.

During the last three year, scholarships were provided to 2.19 lakh students which is **more than 2 times** as compared to the earlier corresponding period.

After coming to power, we have set record in distribution of cycles. During 2011 to 2014 we have distributed cycles more than 10 times as compeared to 2008 to 2011.

Mayel Lyang Lepcha Board and Tamang Development & Cultural Board have been constituted.

Other remarkable achievements are covered in detail in Part-4.

3.17 Empowering the Scheduled Castes and OBCs

During 2011-14, 30 lakhs SC & OBC caste certificates were issued which is **3 times** more than the corresponding period (2008-11). This is a record.

Whereas 9.67 lakh students were given scholarships during 2008-2011, we have during 2011-12 to 2013-14 given scholarships to 21 lakh students, a more than **two times** increase.

3.18 Empowering Self-Help Groups

The total financial assistance to Self-Help Groups during 2011-12 to 2013-14 has doubled (Rs. 2153.67 crore). This is a remarkable achievement.

Huge self-employment opportunities have also been created in this area.

3.19 Empowering Unorganised Workers

You all will be happy to know that from May 2011 to December 2014 more than 45 lakh unorganised workers were brought under various Social Security Schemes.

During this period, benefits under social security schemes to the tune of Rs. 359 crores was disbursed to 12 lakh workers, which is almost **40 times more** than during the period from 2001 to March 2011. This is really unprecedented.

Huge self-employment opportunities have also been created in this area.

3.20 Rural Road

I am pleased to inform that over the last three and half years remarkable progress has been made on the rural road front. Before we came to office, in the year 2010-11, total rural roads constructed was to the tune of 385 kms. In 2013-14, 2631 kms of rural roads were constructed marking a **fourfold increase**.

This has also opened up huge employment opportunities.

3.21 State Highways

Two-laning of 1270 Km and widening of 2672 Km to 5.5 m has been completed, which is a record. The average annual expenditure on roads and bridges has gone up in the last three years.

The newly formed State Highway Development Corporation has taken up plan of construction of 1,000 km highway by the Corporation and 3,000 km under PPP.

The work on Asian Highway 2 connecting Nepal Border to Bangladesh Border at a cost of Rs. 600.87 crore and Asian Highway 48 connecting Bangladesh Border to Bhutan Border at a cost of Rs. 971.40 crore has commenced.

During the period 2011-12 to 2014-15, 88 bridges and Rail-over-Bridges (ROB) are nearing completion.

This has also opened up huge employment opportunities.

3.22 Development of towns

A major thrust has been given by this Government to develop the urban infrastructure in key areas of housing,

transportation, water supply, solid waste management and beautification of river front.

e-Governance have been introduced in all urban local bodies for citizen centric services like issuance of birth and death certificates, trade license etc.

Under the Kolkata Environment Improvement Investment programme Rs. 3420 crore is being provided to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

22 proposals for new townships with investment of Rs. 76,000 crore are on the anvil. This has opened up huge employment opportunities.

Other remarkable achievements are covered in detail in Part-4.

3.23 North Bengal, Sundarbans and Paschimanchal Development

North Bengal Development

This Government has created a new North Bengal Development Department, set up a new Secretariat at Uttar Kanya and formed a new district at Alipurduar. Dedicated funds for the region have changed the development landscape of North Bengal. As a result, investment proposals of Rs. 2,200 crore have been

received at the North Bengal Business Summit and Rs.1,700 crore investment proposals at the MSME Synergy.

Sundarban Development

A magnificent bridge of 1 km length over the river Mridangabhanga has been constructed which is worth seeing. 168.47 km of brick-paved roads and other bituminous and concrete roads, jetties and deep water tube-wells have been completed. The electrification of the islands and strengthening and repairing of embankments has also been taken up in a big way.

Paschimanchal Development

Special thrust has been given to the development of 74 backward blocks including 23 LWE affected blocks spread over five districts in Paschimanchal. Out of the 207 schemes, 152 schemes have been completed and rest are expected to be completed by March, 2015.

3.24 Power

An ambitious programme 'Sabar Ghare Alo' for 1 crore rural new electric connection is going on in full swing. The work of universal electrification of 11 backward districts will be completed within 2015 and the remaining 7 districts of the State including Sagar and Sundarban areas within 2016.

A major initiative 'Sech Bandhu' of Rs. 500 crores has been launched to segregate electric feeders for agricultural purposes and to provide electrification of pump sets.

This has opened up huge employment opportunities.

3.25 Tourism

The allocation of Tourism has increased from Rs. 11.57 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 223 crore in 2014-15 – a **20 fold increase**.

The dream projects of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Kolkata Eye, Jharkhali in Sundarbans, Gajoldoba in North Bengal, Sabuj Dwip in Hooghly, Jhargram Rajbari in Jangal Mahal is becoming a reality.

Complementing the Government's work at the grass-root level, you must have noticed that many new world class hotels with global brands are coming up in Kolkata. Apart from this, a world class Convention Centre is coming up at Rajarhat. Today Eco Park has attracted the attention of the world. A large number of flights have increased from Kolkata and Bagdogra. Three international flights have started operations from Kolkata.

This has also opened up huge employment opportunities.

3.26 Transport

To improve communication in the Public Transport System, 874 new buses have been procured for Kolkata and important towns of Asansol-Durgapur and Siliguri-Jalpaiguri. 565 bus permits have been issued for old and new routes. Sanction has been given for 10,700 No-Refusal taxis.

Helicopter services connecting industrial and tourist towns have been introduced. In order to increase number of commercial flights the State has granted exemption of Sales Tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) for Bagdogra, Cooch Behar and Andal-Durgapur and reduced the Sales Tax for Kolkata International Airport.

This has also created huge employment opportunities.

3.27 Sports and Youth Development

A number of initiatives have been taken for upgradation of sports infrastructure like renovation of existing stadiums, construction of new stadiums and sports hostels, swimming pool and sports academy. 21,000 new seats have been added to stadiums across the State and further 12,500 seats are being added. 25,000 high standard seats have been installed at Salt Lake Stadium.

All the existing 18 Youth hostels which were in highly neglected condition have been renovated. Further, 18 new youth hostels are being constructed to provide additional affordable accommodation.

The number of gymnasiums and sports equipments in various Clubs has increased dramatically through assistance given to 14,000 Clubs.

The expenditure of Sports Department and Youth Affairs Department has increased **seven fold** in the last three years.

3.28 Information Technology

8 (Eight) IT Parks are nearing completion and construction of 7 (Seven) more IT Parks will start soon.

Two Electronic Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) have been approved and one Hardware Park will be operational in 2015-16.

This will generate lakhs of employment opportunities.

A new Indian Institute of Information Technology, Kalyani has for the first time come up in West Bengal.

Other remarkable achievements are covered in detail in Part-4.

3.29 Re-industrialisation of Bengal is under way: Small, Medium and Large

Since May 2011 to December 2014, the total investment implemented or under implementation amounts to Rs. 84,211.85 crores. As a result huge employment opportunities are being created. In addition, investment proposals to the tune of Rs. 55,855.15 crores have been received. Another Rs. 2,43,000 crores worth of investment proposals have been received in the recently held Bengal Global Business Summit taking the total proposals on the table to around Rs. 3 lakh crores.(Rs. 2,98,627 crores). This investment will also generate huge employment opportunities.

Bank Credit Flow to MSME has hit a record high between 2011-12 to 2013-14 reaching Rs. 40,713 crore, a growth of **three times** as compared to the correspondind before. The credit growth for 2012-13 and 2013-14 is highest among all the States.

There were only 54 MSME clusters when we came to office. Today this has increased by **three times** to 161 MSME clusters. This development in MSME will also generate huge employment opportunities.

To bestow prestige to the weavers of the State, a unique Weaver's Identity Card has been introduced and 5,31,075 weavers were issued this Card.

**Anjaam ki fikr na kar
Aaghaz kar ke dekh
Bheegey hue paron se hi
Parwaaz kar ke dekh ||**

With permission of the Hon'ble Speaker, I would like to first propose the allocation of departments covered in Part-4 and then go straight to tax proposals in Part-5 (Page No. 75).

3.30 Budget Allocation of Major department

Budget Allocation of 2015-16

1. Agriculture

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,500.00 crore to this department in the 2015-16, as against Rs. 1,157.72 crore in 2014-15.

2. Food & Supplies

I propose to allocate Rs. 202.00 crore to this department in 2015-16 as against Rs. 175.20 crore.

3. Food Processing Industries & Horticulture

I propose to allocate Rs. 138.00 crore to this department in 2015-16 as against Rs. 120 crore.

4. Animal Resources Development

I propose to allocate Rs. 450.00 crore to this department in 2015-16, as against Rs. 356.85 crore.

5. Fisheries

I propose to allocate Rs. 218.10 crore to this department in 2015-16, as against Rs. 196.00 crore in 2014-15.

6. Panchayat and Rural Development

I propose to allocate Rs. 8,580.00 crore to this department in 2015-16, as against Rs. 7,460.22 crore in 2014-15.

7. Irrigation & Waterways

I propose to allocate Rs. 2,041.00 crore to this department in 2015-16, as against Rs. 1872.49 crore in 2014-15.

8. Forest

I propose to allocate Rs. 271.41 crore to this department in the next financial year as against Rs. 245.62 crore in 2014-15.

9. Water Resources and Investigation & Development

I propose to allocate Rs. 528.00 crore to this department in the next financial year as against Rs. 466.52 crore in 2014-15.

10. Health & Family welfare

I propose to allocate Rs. 2,588.90 crore to this department in 2015-16 as against Rs. 2211.06 crore in 2014-15.

11. School Education

I propose to allocate Rs. 8,055.00 crore to this department in the next financial year as against Rs. 6,884.50 crores in 2014-15.

12. Higher Education

I propose to allocate Rs. 391.00 crore to this department in 2015-16 as against Rs. 342.95 crore in 2014-15.

13. Technical Education & Training

I propose to allocate Rs. 647.00 crore to this department in 2015-16 as against Rs. 549.00 crore in 2014-15.

14. Women Development and Social Welfare & Child Development

I propose to allocate Rs. 863.98 crore to Women Development and Social Welfare Department in 2015-16 as against Rs. 770.76 crore in 2014-15. I propose to allocate Rs. 2,809.83 crore as against 2,420.00 crore in 2014-15 to Child Development Department.

15. Labour

I propose to allocate Rs. 250.00 crore to this department in the next financial year as against Rs. 220.00 crore in 2014-15.

16. Sports & Youth Affairs

I propose to allocate Rs. 180.80 crore to Sports Deptt. as against Rs. 142.00 crore respectively in 2014-15. I propose to allocate Rs. 160.00 crore to Youth Services Department against Rs. 130.00 crore in 2014-15.

17. Information and Cultural Affairs

As against allocation of Rs. 165.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 200.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

18. Home

As against allocation of Rs. 247.67 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 273.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

19. Disaster Management

As against allocation of Rs. 27.50 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 110.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

20. Fire and Emergency Services

As against allocation of Rs. 83.70 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 92.10 crore to this department in the next financial year.

21. Public Health Engineering

As against allocation of Rs. 1336.32 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 1470.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

22. Transport

As against allocation of Rs. 400.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 450.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

23. Public Works & Public Works (Roads)

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,484.60 crore and Rs. 714.40 crore to Public Works (Roads) Department and Public Works Department respectively against allocation of Rs. 1,174.51 crore and Rs. 602.00 crore in the previous year.

24. Land & Land Reforms

As against allocation of Rs. 105.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 115.60 crore to this department in the next financial year.

25. Power

As against allocation of Rs. 1,174.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 1,295.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

26. Urban Development & Municipal Affairs

As against allocation of Rs. 1,585.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 1,895.00 crore to Urban Development Department in the next financial year. I also propose to allocate Rs. 2,466.00 crore in 2015-16 to Municipal Affairs department as against Rs. 2,251.59 crore in the previous year.

27. Housing

As against allocation of Rs.700.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 788.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

28. Minority Affairs

As against allocation of Rs.1,737.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 2,033.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

29. Backward Classes Welfare

As against allocation of Rs. 377.66 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 438.50 crore to this department in the next financial year.

30. Self Help Group & Self Employment

As against allocation of Rs. 305.30 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 400.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

31. North Bengal Development

As against allocation of Rs. 375.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 450.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

32. Sunderban Development

As against allocation of Rs. 300.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 370.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

33. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises & Textiles

As against allocation of Rs. 536.28 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 618.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

34. Commerce & Industries

As against allocation of Rs. 594.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 653.50 crore to this department in the next financial year.

35. Tourism

As against allocation of Rs. 223.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 257.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

36. Information Technology & Electronics

As against allocation of Rs. 126.70 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 164.50 crore to this department in the next financial year.

I have given some examples of major achievements of the government since we came to office.

The following Part-4 gives departmentwise details.

4

Big push to Agriculture and Rural Economy

4.1 Agriculture

Sir, the foodgrain production has recorded an all time high in 2014. During 2014-15, 84 Krishak Bazars out of 176 (Phase I and II) were completed. Remaining will be completed in the next financial year. The sub-division market committees have been integrated with the Zilla Committees.

Till now 65 lakh Kishan Credit card has been distributed to farmers. Crop loans of more than Rs. 2,500 crore was disbursed against the target of Rs. 2,399 crore. The State has now won the Krishi Karman Award of the Government of India for three years in a row.

Exchanges, on soil-based activities and information dissemination, are being set up as 'Mati Tirtha-Krishi Katha' in Burdwan and North Bengal.

Construction of 'Jetti-Bazar' in Sundarban for marketing infrastructure is being taken up. Construction of onion storage structures on cluster basis in onion producing blocks will be taken up under 'Aamar Fasal

Aamar Gola'. Under 'Aamar Fasal Aamar Gari', small and marginal farmers will be provided carriage facilities during 2015-16.

As against allocation of Rs.1,157.72 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.1,500.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.2 Food Security: Food & Supplies

Sir, the total warehousing capacity in the Government when we took over was meagre 40,000 metric tonnes. We took an ambitious programme of creation of 5.755 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of warehousing capacity. Godowns with a storage capacity of 3.80 LMT have been completed at a cost of Rs. 370 crore and the balance will be completed in 2015-16.

The digitisation of ration cards has touched the figure of 7.80 crore, thus covering 82% of the targeted population. During 2015-16, the work of digitisation of ration cards will be completed.

More than 3.2 crore poor people belonging to BPL, Jungle Mahal, Singur, closed tea gardens, Aila affected Sunderbans and 7 backward blocks of Birbhum, are getting subsidised rice at Rs. 2 per kg and Rs. 5 per 750 gm packet of fortified atta.

The State Government has started supplying foodgrains in closed tea gardens and 6 Fair Price Shops

have already been opened in 5 such gardens. Subsidised foodgrains is being provided to one lakh beneficiaries of 27 closed tea gardens.

Procurement of paddy directly from the farmers is being ensured through decentralised purchase camps. Under the Minimum Support Price System 4,57,817 MT of paddy has been procured.

4412 Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) children in 17 districts are being provided additional 9.5 kg foodgrains per month under nutritional support programme.

Construction of Khadya Bhawan in 5 districts, 27 Sub-divisional Food offices and Block Inspector office in all the 341 blocks has been undertaken.

Distribution of foodgrains under National Food Security Act, 2013 for more than 6 crore beneficiaries will start during 2015-16.

As against allocation of Rs.175.20 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 202.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.3 Food Processing Industries & Horticulture

In 2014-15, financial assistance of Rs 10.32 crore was provided to 21 entrepreneurs for establishment and

modernization of Food Processing units. Till now, 67 new units have been granted assistance under the Mission on Food Processing.

A new fiscal incentive package has been introduced for modernization of traditional or loss making rice mills.

During 2015-2016, for increasing the productivity of high value vegetables and flowers, 200 units of polyshade net houses will be constructed.

2,500 permanent polythene made vermin-composting units will be constructed to popularize the use of organic manures.

As against allocation of Rs.120.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.138.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.4 Animal Resources Development Department

The Bishes Go-sampad Bikash Abhijan has been extended to all 341 blocks with target of 6 lakh heifer for scientific management. This is expected to yield additional 9.6 lakh MT milk per year from 4th year onwards.

During 2014-15, 40 lakh chicks & ducklings have been distributed for generation of supplementary income to BPL families.

Modernization of the refrigeration plant of Mother Dairy Calcutta and revival of State Dairy Burdwan by Mother Dairy Calcutta has been undertaken.

Intensive sheep and goat rearing has been introduced in 100 selected blocks in 16 districts involving 50,000 beneficiaries. This will augment meat production by 1800 MT per year.

A new College of Veterinary Education will be established in Jalpaiguri during 2015-16.

As against allocation of Rs.356.85 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.450.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.5 Fisheries

Effective settlement of water bodies have been made to increase fish production in all big water bodies viz beel, baor, bundh etc.

Fish fingerlings along with nutritionally balanced feed have been distributed to 12,000 fish farmers for release in ponds excavated under JAL DHARO JAL BHARO programme. To develop better fish culture, training is being provided to 17,000 fish farmers. It is expected that production of fish will increase to about 18 lakh MT during 2015-16.

Shankarapur Fishing Harbour has been renovated at a cost of Rs. 7.5 crore.

1.36 lakh Biometric identity cards and 1500 Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT) have been distributed to the coastal fishermen. 13,000 homes for fishermen and distribution of 11,000 fish vending equipments has been done during the year.

A new Fisheries Policy which provides for fiscal and non-fiscal incentives has been unveiled to attract investments in the Sector. Investment proposal amounting to Rs.377 crore have been received and MoUs with 12 entrepreneurs have been signed.

As against allocation of Rs.196.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.218.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.6 Panchayat and Rural Development

In MGNREGA, whereas the average annual person-days generated was only 10 crore upto 2010-11, we have achieved 23.16 crore person-day in 2013-14, a two-fold increase. The total expenditure in 2013-14 was a record Rs. 5,753.39 crore. In the current year too the growth was remarkable in the first nine months. However, the

progress has subsequently slowed down due to lack of central fund.

Under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), after a gap of several years, all the districts could get first installment and Rs. 2,805.72 crore could be released against a target of Rs. 931.96 crore. More than 3.83 lakh houses have already been sanctioned and another one lakh houses will be sanctioned during this year.

During 2014-15 under PMGSY, till now, Rs. 1,151.14 crore has been spent and 1,930 km road has been constructed. Construction of remaining 3,838 km road is going on in full swing. As many as 1,356 habitations were connected during 2013-14, an achievement that gave us recognition as the Best in the Country.

Under Nirmal Bangla Mission, we are targeting Open Defecation Free status in the districts of Nadia, North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur by 2015-16 and Hooghly and Burdwan by 2016-17 and rest of the State by 2nd October, 2019.

As against allocation of Rs.7,460.22 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.8,580.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.7 Irrigation & Waterways

The State Government will implement Ghatal Master Plan for alleviating flood inundation in the districts of

Purba & Paschim Medinipur. Work in Keleghai-Kapaleswar-Baghai basin of Purba Medinipur and Paschim Medinipur is progressive in full swing.

A Real Time Flood Forecasting System for non-structural flood management will be implemented for dissemination of flood related information on real time basis.

As against allocation of Rs.1,872.49 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.2041.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.8 Forest

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assisted West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project (WBFBCP) was launched during 2014-15 at a cost of Rs. 406 crore.

Work has been initiated on the establishment of North Bengal Wild Animal Park near Siliguri and the Sundarbans Wild Animal Park at Jharkhali.

A new memorial park named “Smritiban” has been established in New Town, Rajarhat. The work of Eco-tourism Development Project at Jhargram has been completed.

On-line booking of Eco-tourism centres under the West Bengal Forest Development Corporation has been started. The new automated Entry Gate and Tiger Enclosure and Aviary in Alipore Zoo was started.

As against allocation of Rs.245.62 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.271.41 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.9 Water Resources Investigation & Development Department

During 2014-15, irrigation potential of about 57,000 Hectare and additional Culturable Command Area (C.C.A) of about 5,000 Hectare is expected to be created. During 2015-16, another 62000 Hectares of irrigation potential will be created and culturable command area (C.C.A) of 5,500 hectare will be developed.

The work of World Bank assisted West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP), is going on in full swing. The project will create an additional irrigated area of about 1.39 lakh hectare at a cost of Rs. 1,380 crore.

A special programme 'Jalathirtha' for increasing irrigation coverage in the arid districts of Birbhum,

Bankura, Purulia & Paschim Medinipur was taken up during 2014-15. Additional irrigation potential of 14,000 hectare and 1,000 hectare Culturable Command Area (C.C.A) is expected to be created during this financial year. During 2015-16, another 15,000 hectare minor irrigation potential will be created and culturable command area (C.C.A) of 1,500 hectare will be developed in these areas.

Re-excavation of 817 tanks and 7,319 water conservation and water harvesting structures have been completed up to December 2014 under 'Jal Dharo Jal Bharo'. The total number of such water structures has reached 1,18,164. 3,000 new schemes of Excavation/ Re-excavation/Creation of water bodies will be taken up during 2015-16.

As against allocation of Rs.466.52 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.528.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

Social Infrastructure

4.10 Health & Family Welfare

Due to our initiatives, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has decreased from 145 (2007-09) to 117 (2012) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) from 32 (2012) to 31 (2013).

From only 6 operational Sick Newborn Care Units (SNCU) up to May 2011, 43 SNCUs have been made operational upto October 2014 and 16 more new SNCUs are also coming up. 285 Sick New Born Stabilization Unit (SNSU) are operational and 23 more such facilities are coming up. All 561 functional health units now have a New Born Care Corners (NBCC) and 100 more NBCC are being set up in phased manner. 25 Neonatal Units will be operational during 2014-15. NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) and PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) are functional in 9 and 10 Medical Colleges, respectively. Paediatric Nephrology Unit is being set up in Medical College Hospitals and Paediatric Cardiology is being set up in 4 Medical Colleges.

140 Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care (CEmOC) facilities to manage obstetric complications and 531 Basic Emergency Obstetric Care (BEEmOC) facilities will be made operational during 2014-15.

Out of proposed 12 Mother and Child Hubs (MCH), 7 will be completed within 2014-15 and rest in 2015-16.

The construction of 40 Super-speciality hospitals is expected to be completed during 2015-16.

Out of 41 Critical Care Units (CCU), 20 are already functional and the rest 21 will be made operational within 2015-16. Construction of 5 Trauma care units (TCU) has

been completed and construction of another 8 TCU and 9 Burn units (3 in Medical Colleges & 6 in District hospitals) is being taken up.

95 Fair Price Medicine Shops are functional and another 21 will shortly be made operational. During 2014-15, out of the gross sale value of Rs. 544 crores, the patients availed discounts of Rs. 364 crores.

Fair Price Diagnostic Imaging Facilities and Dialysis Services under PPP has been established in 22 hospitals and another 26 hospitals will be covered by August, 2015.

The drugs & equipments budget has increased from Rs. 80 (eighty) crore in 2010-11 to present Rs.403 crore. User charges for all investigations, medicine and beds have been waived in secondary hospitals.

To cope with the shortage of Specialists, DNB (Diploma of National Board) courses have been opened in 6 (six) District Hospitals with addition of 60 (sixty) seats. DNB courses have also been planned in another 4 (four) District Hospitals. From 50,380 Beds in 2011, the Bed strength has increased to 74,507. 180 non-bedded PHC were upgraded to 10 bedded PHC, 144 BPHCs were upgraded to Rural Hospitals. 8 New health districts and 8 New District Hospitals have been created.

As against allocation of Rs.2,211.06 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.2,588.90 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.11 School Education Department

During 2014-15, 155 new primary schools and 350 upper primary schools have been constructed. 584 New Primary Schools along with 1,319 New Upper Primary Schools are under construction. 206 schools have been upgraded from High to Higher Secondary and 104 Junior High Schools to High School.

11,430 schools were provided with two additional class rooms. Additional class rooms in another 14,175 schools are under construction. Classes will commence in 44 Model schools during the next academic year.

33,628 primary schools are being provided with electric connection.

99.36% students of primary schools (77,76,133) and 98.18% students of upper primary schools (46,90,463) have been covered under mid-day meal programme.

‘Nirmal Vidyalaya Abhiyan’ has been taken up in elementary and secondary schools. Till now, more than 98% of the schools have been provided with toilet facilities.

1,151 para teachers have been recruited to teach Santhali medium in primary schools in Jangal Mahal.

In the 11 backward districts, construction of 105 Girls' hostels, 401 integrated school buildings with hostels and 11 PTTIs has been taken up. Seventy one 50-bedded Girls' hostels and 4 new school buildings have been completed.

218 new primary and 373 upper primary schools have been sanctioned and the construction work has been started.

25,309 bicycles have been distributed to Girl students of Bankura, Purulia and Paschim Medinipur districts.

As against allocation of Rs.6,884.50 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.8,055.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.12 Higher Education Department

The new universities at Panchanan Barma University at Coochbehar and Kazi Nazrul University at Asansol and Diamond Harbour Women's University and Bankura University have started functioning in 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively. Two other new State aided universities, namely, the West Bengal University for Teacher Training,

Education, Planning and Administration and Raiganj University will commence in next academic session. With this, the new State aided universities has gone up to six.

We are encouraging setting up of private universities. The Techno India University in North 24 Parganas and the Seacom Skills University in Birbhum have started and another five new private universities the Neotia University, JIS University, the University of Engineering & Management, Adamas University in North 24 Parganas and AMITY University will start in 2015-16.

45 new colleges are coming up in the State. New colleges at Salboni, Lalgarh, Nayagram and Jhargram in Jangalmahal, State's first Hindi medium college at Banarhat, Jalpaiguri, New Town, Singur and Gaighata have already started. Another 15 Government Degree Colleges in un-served and under-served areas will start by August 2015. New Government Engineering Colleges are under construction at Coochbehar and Purulia.

Due to these initiatives of the State Government, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has gone up from 12.80 in 2011-12 to 17.60 currently.

A large number of posts in the teaching and non-teaching category have been created in the newly established universities and colleges.

One of the remarkable achievements has been the reservation for OBC students in higher education under the West Bengal State Higher Educational Institution (Reservation & Admission) Act, 2013. 59,612 OBC category A & B students were admitted in the academic session of 2014 – 15, accounting for 10.60% of the total number of students admitted.

As against allocation of Rs.342.95 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.391.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.13 Technical Education and Training

The State, in order to enhance the employment opportunities through skill development of the youth, has taken up an ambitious programme of setting up one Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in every Block of the State and one Polytechnic in every Sub-division.

This Government in just three years has operationalized 43 new ITIs and additional 92 ITIs will come up this year. In order to use the expertise of private sector in skill development training, plan to set up 1000 ITIs in the Public Private Partnership has been taken in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation.

34 polytechnics have already been set up and 32 more Polytechnics are under construction.

Abex Chambers like FICCI, BCCI and reputed industrial players like Samsung, Raymonds etc. are importing skill training.

The State has received the highest award in the All India Skill Competition two times in a row in 2013 and 2014.

As against allocation of Rs.549.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.647.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.14 Women Development and Social Welfare & Child Development

Poorna Shakti Kendra – a Pilot project on theme “Prevention of Low Child Sex Ratio” has been started.

About 12.5 Lakh Girls are covered under *Sabla*, an empowerment scheme for the Adolescent Girls.

Under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme morning snacks and cooked meal are being provided to the beneficiaries. Poustik laddu or poustik ahar, a wheat based nutrient rich food has been introduced for severely malnourished children.

14,500 anganwadi centres have been constructed across the State since May 2011. The number of anganwadi centres have increased to 35,926.

Our Government is also the first to design a detailed State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC), 2014-18.

Kanyashree Day was celebrated across the State on 14th August 2014. The scheme has been end-to-end IT-enabled and a dedicated web portal wbkanyashree.gov.in has been developed. Till date, 22 lakh beneficiaries have been enrolled and assistance given to 20 lakh beneficiaries. Kanyashree was acclaimed as one of the Best practices in Girls' Summit held in July 2014 at London and has received the first prize in the Manthan South Asia & Asia Pacific Award in e-governance. It has recently bestowed with National e Governance award in the category of "Outstanding Performance in Citizen-Centric Service".

I propose to allocate Rs. 863.98 crore to Women Development and Social Welfare Department in 2015-16 as against Rs. 770.76 crores in 2014-15. I propose to allocate Rs. 2,809.83 crore as against 2,420.00 crore in 2014-15 to Child Development Department.

4.15 Labour Welfare

There are 1.5 crore unorganised workers in the State who are provided benefits under different social security schemes. The total number of beneficiaries enrolled under "State Assisted Scheme of Provident Fund for

Unorganised Workers (SASPFUW)” has crossed 50 lakh this year. Rs.187.50 crore was disbursed under this scheme. In 2015-16, efforts will be made to distribute Samajik Mukti Cards to all unorganised workers.

On-line registration of factories was started from 1st April, 2014. Submission of factory license fee through the GRIPS portal has also been introduced.

Construction of Regional Offices under Labour Department at Siliguri and Asansol is going on at a cost of Rs.7.32 crore and Rs.8.30 crore respectively.

‘West Bengal Transport Workers Social Security Scheme-2010’ was introduced to provide basic social security benefits for 10 lakh transport workers.

Around 1 lakh job seekers are being provided assistance of Rs.1500 per month under the ‘Yuvashree’ scheme.

Under Udiyaman Swanirbhar Karmasansthan Prakalpa (USKP) scheme, loan and subsidy is provided to registered job-seekers 2,000 such projects will be approved during 2015-16.

More than 17 lakh jobseekers and 305 employers have registered in the Employment Bank up to October 2014.

A web portal will be launched to facilitate submission of on-line reports and returns under various labour laws. The registration and renewal under Shops & Establishments Act will also be done through this web-portal.

As against allocation of Rs.220.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.250.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.16 Sports & Youth Affairs

The new stadiums at Salboni and Nayagram Sports Academy of Jhargram will be operational by 31st March, 2015. The new Indoor Stadium at Purulia and the Sports Complex in Bankura will be completed by June, 2015. A residential football academy at Khardah has started functioning in the State. A new Archery Academy in Jhargram will become operational in 2015-16.

New seating capacity of 21,000 seats has been added in different stadiums and another 12,500 is in progress. Around 25,000 seats have been installed in Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK). Renovation and upgradation of Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan and Netaji Indoor Stadium will be completed in 2015-16.

Funds were granted to 7,000 clubs for sports equipments and organizing coaching camps.

1500 multi-gyms in various clubs and schools and 90 community hall-cum-recreation centres have been sanctioned in Paschim Medinipore, Birbhum and Purulia.

New stadiums in Hooghly and Islampur in Uttar Dinajpur and a swimming pool at Canning and Baruipur in South 24-Pgs will be taken up during next financial year.

All the existing Youth hostels have been renovated. 18 new Youth hostels are being constructed.

A new award named as “Chhanda Gayen Bravery Award” has been instituted for exceptional women mountaineer besides the “Radhanath Sikdar-Tenzing Norgay” award.

As against allocation to Sports and Youth Services Departments of Rs.142.00 crore and Rs130.00 crore respectively in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.180.80 crore and Rs.160.00 crore to the departments respectively in the next financial year.

4.17 Information and Cultural Affairs

In 2014-15, about 11 major projects of repair, renovations and construction have been completed or nearing completion.

A new scheme 'Lok Prasar Prakalpa' has been launched under which financial assistance will be given to around 30,000 folk artistes.

Under the medical benefit scheme, about 5,000 cine and television artistes and technicians were benefitted.

Eminent personalities in the field of art and culture were awarded Banga Bibhusan, Banga Bhusan, Rabindra Smriti Puraskar, Nazrul Smriti Puraskar, Dinabandhu Puraskar, Jnan Prakash Puraskar, etc.

Dance Drama Festival, Mati Utsav, Natya Mela, Bangla Sangeet Mela, Children's Film Festival, Tele Award, Paschimbanga Charukala Utsav etc. were organised. The 20th Kolkata International Film Festival was held in November, 2014. Our Government has also taken up a project for digitization and restoration of renowned Bengali films.

In the next financial year, thorough repair and renovation of different Rabindra Bhavans will be undertaken. The work of Integrated Film City at Baruipur, South 24 Parganas and Dabgram, Jalpaiguri will be started in 2015- 2016.

As against allocation of Rs.165.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.200.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.18 Home Department

57 new Police Station inclusive of 20 Women Police Stations, 14 Coastal Police Stations and 5 Cyber Crime Police Stations have been set up. Construction of 10 Fortified Police Station Buildings has been completed. Four more such projects are expected to be completed this year.

Under the “Intelligence Surveillance System”, 624 CCTV cameras have been installed at 218 important road crossings in Kolkata. Construction of Kolkata Police Training Academy at a cost of Rs.71.99 crore has commenced. Kolkata Police will take up installation of web-based authentication under Arms Act., Interception System, Mobile VMS Board etc.

A Housing Scheme named PRATYASHA for the State Police Personnel has been started. The land is being provided by the Government free of cost. Enrolment in the Medical Insurance Scheme for Police Personnel increased from 48,000 to 58,000.

The State Forensic Science Laboratory is being upgraded. A zero pendency drive has been taken up and in February 2015 there are only 7,000 cases pending including 2,800 fresh cases.

Construction of Police Training School at Salua with a capacity to train 1200 personnel per year and Subsidiary Training Centre at Charrah of 400 capacity will be completed in 2015-16.

As against allocation of Rs.247.67 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.273.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.19 Department of Disaster Management

The State would start the implementation of National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (Phase-II) during 2015-16 with a total outlay of Rs. 649.90 crores. Under this project, 150 cyclone shelters would be constructed in 3 coastal districts of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur. The entire HT and LT electrical cable network in Digha and Shankarpur would be placed underground.

Under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project, 25 multipurpose cyclone shelters will be constructed in the coastal blocks of South 24 Parganas at a project cost is Rs. 95.00 crores during 2015-16.

As against allocation of Rs.27.50 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.110.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.20 Department of Fire & Emergency

During 2014-15, construction of 20 new Fire Stations and repair of 15 Fire Stations have been undertaken. Two Bronto Sky Lifts for fighting fire in high-rise buildings are now operational.

The manual processing of applications for Fire Safety Certificates and Fire Licenses has been streamlined to clear the backlog. Online modules for issuance of Fire Safety Certificates and Fire Licenses is being prepared. Modernization of Control Room through Fleet Management System using GPRS Technology has been completed.

As against allocation of Rs.83.70 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.92.10 crore to this department in the next financial year.

Physical Infrastructure

4.21 Drinking Water

During 2014-15, water supply schemes of Rs 632.90 crores have been sanctioned including 104 Piped Water Supply Schemes. In Jangalmahal area, 50 piped water supply schemes at a cost of Rs.141.70 crore have been completed.

The work of Bankura Phase-I Water Supply Project has commenced at a cost of Rs 1011.12 crore. The work of JICA aided water supply project in Purulia at a cost of Rs. 1173.10 crore has also been taken up.

A water supply scheme of Kulpi & adjoining mouzas at a cost of Rs.1332.41 crore and Bally-Jagachha areas of Howrah District at a cost of Rs.150.68 crore is also underway.

A water supply scheme for Panskura-II block has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 241.72 crores covering 112 mouzas and one town in Panskura – II block in Purba Medinipur District.

Water supply schemes at Haringhata block of Nadia at a cost of Rs.118.90 crore, Chakdah Block at a cost of Rs 101.98 crore and in Murshidabad District at a cost of Rs 290.72 crore have been commissioned.

704 solar power based water supply schemes in Bankura, Paschim Midnapur and Purulia at a cost of Rs 51.67 crore have been taken up.

As against allocation of Rs.1,336.32 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.1,470.00 crore to Public Health Engineering department in the next financial year.

4.22 Transport

874 new buses have been procured for the Kolkata Metropolitan Area, Asansol-Durgapur and Siliguri-Jalpaiguri. The State Government has sanctioned 10700 no-refusal taxis to combat the problem of refusal of taxis. 565 bus permits have been issued for several old and new routes. The work of optimal utilization of manpower and monetization of idle land assets of the STUs is progressing satisfactorily.

Helicopter services have been introduced for connecting different tourism destinations and remote towns of the State. We have also decided to provide support for a 'fixed-wing aircraft' in private sector service in Kolkata-Durgapur-Bagdogra-Coochbehar route. We have waived Sales Tax on ATF at Bagdogra airport that has given a tremendous fillip to tourist inflow to North Bengal. The up-coming airport at Andal-Durgapur would also be commissioned shortly.

As against allocation of Rs.400.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.450.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.23 Road Infrastructure

Under the Special BRGF, all 171 Projects involving widening and strengthening of 2086.95 km of roads and

18 new bridges except Bhasraghat Bridge will be completed by September 2015. This bridge will be completed by December 2015.

The construction of VIP Road flyover at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at a cost of Rs. 313.35 crore will be completed by end of February 2015.

Rail-over-Bridges (ROB) at Bagnan, Miapur and Jhargram will be completed by February, 2015. Initiative has been taken to take up construction of 18 new ROB.

9 Pathersathi and 96 toilet-blocks have been completed. Another 99 toilet-blocks are under construction.

The State Highway Development Corporation has started 4 laning of Dankuni to Kalyani More via Mogra at a cost of Rs. 638.72 crore. Two laning of road between Adisaptagram to Guptipara, Barjora to Mejhia, Ghatakpukur to Sarberia and Chanditala to Champadanga road at a cost of Rs. 571.31 crore has also started.

The work on Asian Highway 2 connecting Nepal Border (Kakarbhita) to Bangladesh Border (Banglabandha) at a cost of Rs. 600.87 crore and Asian Highway 48 connecting Bangladesh Border (Burimari) to Bhutan Border (Pasakha) at a cost of Rs. 971.40 crore, has started.

The work of construction of high level major bridge over river Hatania – Doania at a cost of Rs. 225.93 crore has commenced.

Work on 553 km widening and strengthening of State Highways under Compensatory Entry Tax Fund at a cost of Rs. 1047.00 crore will start during the financial year 2015 – 16. Construction of Bridge over river Katakhalī at Hasnabad for linking Taki Road (SH - 2) with Hasnabad - Hingalganj Road at a cost of Rs. 64.98 crore will also start by March 2015.

As against allocation to Public Works (Roads) Department and Public Works Department of Rs.1,174.51 crore and Rs.602.00 crore respectively in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.1,484.60 crore and Rs.714.40 crore respectively to the departments in the next financial year.

4.24 Land & Land Reforms

During the financial year 2014-15, construction of 30 new Block and Sub-Division offices were started. Construction of 90 modern Record Rooms will be completed within this financial year.

Till now, more than 2,30,000 pattas have been distributed under 'Nijo Griha Nijo Bhumi' (NGNB).

Over-the-Counter (OTC) service for obtaining certified copies of Record of Rights (ROR) and plot information has been started at 345 block offices.

Integration between Land Records and Property Registration is under implementation and these facilities will be operational within 30th June 2015.

As against allocation of Rs.105.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.115.60 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.25 Power

‘Sabar Ghare Alo’ for universal electrification is going on in full swing. The work in 11 backward districts will be completed by September 2015 and in the rest 7 districts by the end of 2016.

During the last three year (2011-2014), we have been able to provide electricity connection to 52.59 lakh, an increase of 200% (17.65 lakh during 2008-11).

A major programme ‘Sech Bandhu’, to segregate electric feeders for agricultural purposes and provide electric connections to pump sets has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 500 crore.

A 250 MW thermal power unit was commissioned at Durgapur Projects Limited in October, 2014.

Construction of 3rd and 4th Unit of Sagardighi Thermal Power Plant of 500 MW each will be commissioned in 2015-16. Renovation work of 210 MW (unit No. 5) of Bandel Thermal Power station has been completed. 4 new Hydroelectric Power Stations with the capacity of 293 MW were approved for construction in Darjeeling district in 2014-15.

In the transmission sector, 132/33 kv substations at Mathabhanga GIS and Ujanoo in Alipurduar, 220/132 kv substation at Dharampur GIS and Vidyasagar Park GIS in Paschim Medinipur will be commissioned in 2015-16.

As part of solar energy initiative, a 10 MW Canal Bank Solar PV power project along Teesta Canal Fall Stage II H.E. in Uttar Dinajpur District is planned to be set up with a project cost of Rs.69.74 crore.

As against allocation of Rs.1,174.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.1,295.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.26 Urban Development & Municipal Affairs

During 2014-15, major projects, namely, Nazrul Tirtha (Rs.45.70 Cr), Eco Island at Eco Tourism Park Phase-III (Rs.6.67 Cr.), Pedestrian Underpass (Rs.4.76 Cr), 3rd Bagjola Bridge (Rs. 6.03 Cr.), Surface Water Supply

Scheme at Baruipur Municipality (Rs. 14.47 crores), 25 MGD capacity Water Treatment Plant at Geonkhali and Satish Samanta Haldia Trade Centre at Raichak were completed. Construction of 10 Community Markets and Solar City Project has been taken by Newtown Kolkata Development Authority.

129 acres of land has been given to Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority for Smart Township at Bolpur.

The construction of iconic Giant Wheel in the Millennium Park has been taken up in collaboration with Kolkata Port Trust at a cost of Rs. 300.79 crore. The project is being executed by Sun Consultant and Investment, a U.K. based company.

The State Government has recently formulated a new Township Policy to create through private investment, new towns and growth centres with adequate provisions for economically weaker sections. 22 proposals for new townships with investment of Rs.76,000 crore are on the anvil. Of this, 15 specific proposals have been received with the direct investment of about Rs.32,734 crore have been received.

During the next financial year, municipal solid waste management project in six municipalities in Hooghly

district will be taken up. Municipal waste water project of Barrackpore Municipal Town, Uttarpara-Kotrungis and Khardah town will also be taken up.

During 2014-15, a new municipality at Buniadpur has been constituted. Last year Haringhata Municipality had been constituted. There are plan to constitute four more new municipalities at Belda (West Midnapur), Mollarpur (Birbhum), Bally Paschim (Howrah) and Kolaghat-Mecheda (East Midnapur).

117 urban local bodies have introduced e-Governance system for citizen-centric services like issuance of birth certificates, death certificates, trade license, etc.

50 bedded-capacity shelters for urban homeless will be constructed in 10 towns in the initial phase.

ADB assisted Kolkata Environment Improvement Investment Programme (KEIIP) (Phase-II) of Rs. 3420 crore for providing water supply, sewerage and drainage services in Kolkata Municipal Corporation has been taken up.

As against allocation of Rs. 1,585.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs. 1,895.00 crore to Urban Development Department in the next financial year. I also propose to allocate Rs. 2,466.00 crore in 2015-16 to Municipal Affairs department as against Rs. 2,251.59 crore in the previous year.

4.27 Housing

61,052 dwelling units have been completed under “Geetanjali” and “Amar Thikana” schemes. During 2015 -16, 60,000 more dwelling units will be constructed.

Five working women hostels are under construction in Kolkata. Three night shelters for patient parties are also being constructed in Kolkata and South 24-Parganas.

Construction of 12 “Pathasathi” has been completed on National Highways, State Highways and other important roads. 15 more Pathasathi will be completed in 2015-16.

As against allocation of Rs.700.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.788.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

Empowering the Disadvantaged

4.28 Development of Minorities

During 2014-15, 23 lakh minority students will be provided Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarship taking the figure to 80 lakh students since May, 2011. 2.14 lakh minority girl students are being provided bicycles at a cost of Rs.61.7 crore. Construction work for 279 hostels has been taken up which will benefit about 20,000 students.

In 151 minority concentration blocks in 16 districts, projects at a cost of Rs.1,126 crore have been taken up. Construction of 20 Minority Bhawans in all the districts has been taken up. 15 Bhawans have started functioning. 123 Marketing Hubs are under construction for providing self employment and marketing facilities to farmers and artisans. The Third Haj House is under construction in New Town at a cost of Rs. 97.67 crore.

Urdu, Nepali, Hindi, Oriya, Santhali and Gurmukhi have been made official languages in places where more than 10% of people belonging to the respective communities reside.

An amount of Rs.298 crore was released for construction of Aliah University at New Town Campus and K.I.T. Building. Urdu Academy has been renovated and Urdu Cultural Centres are being set up in Asansol and Islampur.

While only 61 boundary walls of public graveyard at a cost of Rs. 7.43 crore were taken up till May 2011, in three years we have taken up construction of 1870 boundary walls of public graveyard at a cost of Rs. 94.64 crore.

As against allocation of Rs.1,737.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.2,033.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.29 Backward Classes Welfare

Sir, 14 lakh SC & ST students of classes V to VIII will be benefitted from a new scholarship scheme 'Sikhashree'.

The online issuance of caste certificates is operational in 55 sub-divisions. 12 lakh caste certificates have so far been issued during the current financial year.

The State Government has increased coverage under the pension scheme and nearly 1.32 lakh ST beneficiaries have been covered under the scheme.

The construction of Kabigaan Academy building at Bongaon, North 24 Parganas is expected to be completed during 2015-16.

Skill Development training of over 5000 candidates were organised in various trades including computer, 'New Age Security Guard', 'Plastics Engineering & Technology', 'Hospitality' & 'Retail' etc. Training of another 10,700 beneficiaries is underway.

Special Recruitment Drive for SC & ST candidates has been undertaken to fill up 3,354 SC and 1,159 ST vacancies.

The Mayel Lyang Lepcha Board and the Tamang Development and Cultural Board have been formed.

Funds have been released to these Boards for them to function effectively. It has also been decided to set up a Cultural Board for Sherpas.

During this year, 74,000 bi-cycles have been distributed to ST girl students of classes IX – XII.

As against allocation of Rs.377.66 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.438.50 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.30 Self Help Group & Self Employment

24,657 Self Help Group (SHG) members and entrepreneurs were trained in various skills.

‘Muktidhara’ project has been extended to Paschim Medinipur District. 236 SHGs covering 2360 families have benefitted from this programme.

Under Swami Vivekananda Swanirbhar Karmasansthan Prakalpa (SVSKP), 22,449 entrepreneurs were provided Bank loan of Rs.598.42 crore and generating more than 50,000 jobs.

Under West Bengal Swanirbhar Sahayak Prakalpa (WBSSP), Rs.25.25 crore disbursed as subsidy to 1,45,921 SHGs.

State level Sabala Mela-2014 was held in 19 districts including Kolkata. Stalls in Karmatirtha at Madhabdihi and Khandaghosh have been allotted to SHG members.

As against allocation of Rs.305.30 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.400.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.31 North Bengal Development

Construction of Hindi College at Hathighisa, Naxalbari and General Degree College at Ghosepukur, Phansidewa and ITI at Khoribari in Siliguri has started. Drinking water schemes in Naxalbari and Khoribari and Solid Waste Management Project in Siliguri corporation area have also started.

The up-gradation of Jalpaiguri Sports Complex at a cost of Rs. 19 crore has been completed. Alternate road from Siliguri to Jalpaiguri via Eastern Bypass has been taken up. The project of Herbivore Safari at Salugara, Jalpaiguri has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 15.56 crore.

Construction of Lilawati College at Jateswar at a cost of Rs. 8.40 crores, hostel at Hashimara Hindi Girls School at a cost of Rs. 3.19 crores, water supply scheme for Banshidharpur, Kalipur, Kadambini TG and Raichenga,

Falakata at a cost of Rs. 666.92 lakh, widening of road from Andu Basti more to Dakshin Mendabari (8.2 KM) at a cost of Rs. 840.41 lakh was taken up.

Construction of auditorium at Coochbehar, renovation of Mekhliganj Community Hall, Haldibari College and Ekramia Isale Saoab Mazahar Sharif (Huzur Saheb) at Haldibari, bridge at Salbari I GP over river Mararaidak and extension of Dewanhat and Baxirhat Colleges were taken up during 2014-15.

Construction of Rabindra Bhawan at Raiganj, Hanskhali Bridge at Islampur, construction of Natya Academy at Balurghat, Market Complex at Gangarampur and electric crematorium at Balurghat was taken up.

Construction of Bhutni Bridge at Manikchak, Malda at a cost of Rs. 98.97 crore, up-gradation of Malda Medical College, drainage system of English Bazar Municipality and electrical installation at Malda Central Bus Terminus was taken up.

During 2015-16, construction of Bus Terminus at Alipurduar, development of Dakshin Khayerbari Forest in Alipurduar district, installation of LED lighting of Rajbari Complex and construction of Polytechnic Institute at Mathabhanga in Coochbehar district, beautification

of Domohini Jhil, Sports Village (2nd Phase) at Jalpaiguri and tourist resort at Chalsa in Jalpaiguri district, development of Pundim Khayrani and Sukna Forest village and construction of Pahariya Bhawan at Siliguri in Darjeeling district, new General Degree College at Goalpokhor, construction of electric crematorium and auditorium at Islampur in Uttar Dinajpur district, construction of new Law College, market complex at Gangarampur and Bus Stand at Buniyadpur in Dakshin Dinajpur district, construction of new stadium at Chanchal and underground parking facility in front of the Collectorate Building in Malda district will be taken up.

As against allocation of Rs.375.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.450.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.32 Sundarban Development

168.47 km of brick-paved road, 18.85 km of bituminous road and 29.05 km of concrete roads and 20 numbers of R.C.C. jetties have been completed. The construction of R.C.C. Bridge over river Mridangabhanga connecting Mathurapur – II & Patharpratima blocks has been completed. 7 more bridges have been taken up during this year.

19,000 bicycles are being distributed to the girl students of Class – IX.

During 2015–16, 480 km roads, 30 R.C.C. Jetties and 5 Bridges will be taken up.

Distribution of agriculture seeds, organic manure and agriculture implements to 71,000 farmers will be taken up during the 2015 – 16.

As against allocation of Rs.300.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.370.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

Industry: Small, Medium & Large

4.33 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises & Textiles

Bank Credit Flow to MSME between 2008-09 and 2010-11 was Rs.14,557 crore, it is Rs.4,0713 crore between 2011-12 and 2013-14. In 2011, there were only 54 MSME cluster in the State. Now, there are 215. The number of Artisan Identity Cards issued has gone up from 33852 to 542909. Also, weavers identity cards issued have gone up from 0 to 531075.

Cluster development in 215 clusters was taken up for in MSME and textile sector.

Three regional level SYNERGY conclaves were successfully organized at Siliguri, Howrah and Malda for handholding support to MSME entrepreneurs.

Three Biswa Bangla Showrooms were opened at Kolkata Airport, Dakshinapan, Rajarhat and Kolkata International Airport. Three more showrooms at Bagdogra Airport, Esplanade and New Delhi will be opened shortly.

Biswa Bangla Marketing Corporation (BBMC) has been set up as an umbrella organisation.

The Indian Institute of Handloom Technology at Fulia started functioning from August, 2014. Skill upgradation training for 97,000 handloom weavers over the next three years has also started.

A Scheme of Approved Industrial Park (SAIP) with plug and play facility for MSME units has been introduced. A Venture Capital Fund with a proposed corpus of Rs. 200 crore has been formed.

Unique Clearance Centre (UCC) for fast tracking of land clearance was set up in Jalpaiguri, Bankura and Burdwan.

MSME Facilitation Centre (MFC) has been set up in 5 districts to provide single window services to all MSME

entrepreneurs for statutory compliances and incentives. During 2015-16, MFC will be set up in each district.

25 “Karma Tirtha” with project cost of Rs. 2.80 crore each will be set up in 11 backward districts under NFM. Construction of Biswa Khudra Bazar planned over 50 acres of land at Santiniketan will soon start.

The construction of Eco Tourism Park being set up at Banerhat, Jalpaiguri will start in 2015-16. One Silk Park will come up at Malda and one Apparel and Textile hub will be set up at Rajarhat in 2015-16.

As against allocation of Rs.536.28 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.618.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.34 Large Industries

I am happy to inform that with the introduction of West Bengal State Support for Industries Scheme 2013, the State offers one of the most attractive fiscal incentives to manufacturing units.

13 Business Agreements (B2B) were signed in township, development, food processing, textiles, IT and civil aviation during the visit of Hon’ble Chief Minister to Singapore.

The Bengal Global Business Summit – 2015 held on 7th and 8th January 2015 has been a remarkable success. The State received investment proposals worth Rs. 2,43,100 crore at the summit. 20 countries participated and evinced keen interest to invest in the State.

We have taken up development of three new industrial parks at Goaltore, Haringhata and Haldia. Major industries like OCL, Xpro India Ltd., IFB Agro Industries, Utkarsh Tube & Pipes, Bengal Beverages have started commercial production in 2014-15.

To expand facilities for leather manufacturers, the Government has decided to notify Bantala as Industrial Township Authority.

In order to rejuvenate five tea gardens of WBTDCL, the State Government has successfully completed the process of private sector participation.

As against Rs.594.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.653.50 crore to Commerce and Industries Department in the next financial year.

The Service Sector

4.35 Tourism Department

The budgetary allocation of tourism sector has increased from paltry Rs.11.57 crore in 2010-11 to Rs.223.00 crore in 2014-15.

A new Tourism Incentive Policy 2015 has been introduced. Eco-Tourism, Home Tourism and Tea Tourism will be covered under this policy.

Work on major iconic projects like Gajoldoba Mega Tourism Project, Jharkhali Eco Tourism Project, Sabujdweep Eco Tourism Project and Heritage Project at Jhargram Rajbari was started.

Several other new projects for tourism development were taken up, namely, accommodation facilities in Purulia, home stay development at Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, development of Roy Villa at Darjeeling, infrastructure development around Mukutmanipur Dam, etc.

As against allocation of Rs.223.00 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.257.00 crore to this department in the next financial year.

4.36 Information Technology & Electronics

The 8 (Eight) IT Parks at Siliguri Phase II, Durgapur Phase II, Asansol, Barjora, Rajarhat, Kharagpur, Bolpur and Purulia will be operational in 2015-16. These IT Parks alone will create 20,000 new employments. Construction of 7 (Seven) more IT Parks at Malda, Howrah, Haldia, Kalyani, Krishnanagar, Taratala and Bantala will start soon.

Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) at Naihati and Falta has been approved. Sonarpur Hardware Park will be operational in 2015-16.

We have entered into a collaboration with NASSCOM in the 10,000 Start-up warehouse and Microsoft Centre of Excellence. The IT and Electronics sector is expected to employ 2 lakh professionals by the end of 2015-16.

e-District, the Mission Mode G-2-C project with end-to-end electronic service delivery earlier operating in 2 districts will be extended to all districts in 2015-16. The expansion of WBSWAN at district, block and sub-division level is to be completed in 2015-16.

The e-Office in North and South 24 Parganas Districts, Document Management System (DMS) in Darjeeling DM office, major projects like Integrated Finance Management System (IFMS), Kanyashree, RFID-based Taxi Monitoring System at Howrah Station, etc. have been implemented.

The Indian Institute of Information Technology, Kalyani has started its academic session this year and 50 Students have been enrolled.

As against allocation of Rs.126.70 crore in 2014-15, I propose to allocate Rs.164.50 crore to this department in the next financial year.

5. Tax Reforms

Hon'ble Members, the State can be proud of having one of the most modern Commercial Taxes set up in the country.

The reforms in the tax administration have been widely acknowledged nationally with Commercial Taxes Directorate being adjudged FIRST among all states in the CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Award, 2013-14 and National Award on e-Governance 2014-15 in "Excellence in Governance".

5.1 Increase in VAT threshold

Sir, threshold of annual turnover for paying VAT is Rs. 5 lakh. I propose to increase the threshold from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs. Due to this measure, more than 20,000 dealers who are at present required to pay VAT will now go out of the ambit of Value Added Tax.

5.2 Amnesty Scheme for registration

Sir, despite our past initiatives to bring big unregistered dealers under the tax fold, some dealers still remain outside the VAT network owing to penal provision and burden of past tax liabilities. I propose to introduce an attractive amnesty scheme for unregistered

dealers for registration upon payment of reduced tax on their self-declared turnovers for past periods without payment of interest and penalty. The scheme will be open from 01.04.2015 till 31.07.2015.

5.3 Settlement of Dispute Scheme

Sir, with a view to provide relief to the dealers of their unpaid past liabilities and to reduce pending cases, I propose, to introduce a very attractive Settlement of Dispute under which the dealers can honourably discharge their past liabilities by paying a fixed percentage of past dues with full waiver of interest and penalty for assessment cases pending in appeal or revision as on the 31st day of January, 2015. The last date for making application for such settlement will be 31st July, 2015.

5.4 VAT audit relief to MSME

Sir, audit report by a chartered accountant has to be compulsorily filed by the dealers. We had earlier provided relief to small dealers by gradually increasing the threshold from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crores. Sir, for the development of MSMEs and small dealers of the State, I propose to increase the threshold from Rs.5 crore to Rs.10 crore.

Sir, the dealers with annual turnover of less than Rs. 5 crores are required to file a self-audit statement. I now propose to do away with filing of self-audit statement by dealers with an annual turnover of less than Rs. 10 crores.

5.5 Simplification of assessment

The far-reaching changes in the assessment procedure have reduced assessments from 1,73,588 in 2011-12 to 40,493 in 2013-14, a whopping 300% reduction.

I now propose that no demand above Rs. 20,000 can be raised unless the dealer is given an opportunity to present his case on receipt of the gist of the proposed demand. This will reduce litigation and also provide relief.

Sir, at present upon disposal of an appeal petition, the case is sent back to the assessing officer for issuance of a revised demand notice, thus causing delay. I now propose to issue a revised demand notice along with the Appellate Order itself.

5.6 Speedy tax refund

Sir, when we came to office, VAT refund used to take 8 to 10 months which we brought down to 1 month. The simplification of refund procedure has resulted in more than eight times increase in number and fourteen times

increase in quantum of pre-assessment refunds. This is remarkable achievement in the area of VAT Refund.

Now, I propose to provide for grant of post-assessment refund within one month of issue of the assessment order and dispose of all pending cases within September 2015.

5.7 Extending the scope of pre-assessment refund

Sir, at present dealers are not entitled to pre-assessment refund if the combined export and inter-state turnover exceeds 50% of the total turnover. I propose to allow the benefit of refund to dealers whose combined turnover of export and inter-state sales exceeds 50% of the total turnover.

5.8 Easy Profession Tax registration

Sir, Profession Tax enrolment is required for submitting online application for VAT registration. I propose to merge the two processes through an integrated online system whereby a dealer can simultaneously obtain Profession Tax enrolment and VAT registration.

I also propose to grant new VAT registration within 24 hours for all online application made using Digital Signature.

5.9 Reducing litigation

Sir, in order to reduce the backlog of cases pending with the Appellate and Revisional Board, I now propose to transfer all pending cases with demand upto Rs.1 crore to Fast Track Administrative Authority.

5.10 Merger of Profession Tax set-up with Commercial Taxes

Sir, during the last year major structural reforms were introduced in profession tax through rationalisation of tax slabs from more than 100 to just 4.

I now propose to merge the Profession Tax set up with the existing Commercial Taxes Directorate. This will hugely benefit the prospective tax payers who will now have to deal with only One Tax authority in place of two.

5.11 Input Tax Credit on Duty Credit Scrips

Sir, at present Input Tax Credit (ITC) on duty credit scrips, is at present allowed only to the traders. I propose to extend this benefit also to manufacturers in order to boost exports from the State.

5.12 Stamp Duty Relief for Property Registration

Sir, at present 1% additional Stamp Duty is charged on properties whose market value exceeds Rs. 30 lakhs. I now propose to raise the threshold from Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 40 lakhs with immediate effect. As a result, the property owners will have to pay reduced Stamp Duty of 6% instead of 7% on properties with market value up to Rs. 40 lakhs.

5.13 Extending Industrial Promotion Assistance Scheme

Sir, the Industrial Promotion Assistance Scheme for financial assistance to micro and small enterprises comes to an end on 31.03.2015. I propose to extend the scheme for a further period of one year up to 31.03.2016.

5.14 Cess relief to tea gardens

Sir, the exemption given to tea industry from payment of Primary Education and Rural Employment Cess ceases on 31.03.2015. I propose to extend this till 31.03.2016.

5.15 Relief to Tea Industry

Sir, Tea industry is a major source of livelihood of people of North Bengal. I propose to exempt tea estates from payment of the unpaid Interest on both Agricultural

Income Tax and Cesses that are outstanding on 31.03.2015 provided that all the unpaid dues of Agricultural Income Tax and Cesses upto 31.03.2015 are paid within a period of 5 years from 31.03.2015.

5.16 Reduction of Amusement Tax on Musical Soiree etc.

Sir, exemption for Musical Soiree, magic show and dance and some other non-cinema entertainments was available upto tickets of value Rs.60. I now propose to enhance the limit from Rs. 60 to Rs. 100. This relief will help the organisers of such entertainments to hold such programmes viably.

6

New Initiatives

6.1 Providing cycles to students

Students in rural areas find it difficult to attend school when they have to walk for some distance. Poor families cannot spare money for transport. This partially accounts for dropouts among students after Class-VIII.

To address this issue we are providing cycles to students of Classes IX to XII. Within a span of two years almost 5 lakh bicycles have been distributed.

I now propose to provide bicycles to all 40 lakh students of the State from Class-IX to Class-XII within the next two years.

6.2 Assisting small and marginal farmers

The total gross cropped area of the State is 65 lakh hectares out of which only 39 lakh hectares is under irrigation. In order to encourage the farmers to take up minor irrigation, I propose to introduce a new scheme.

Under the new scheme, the state will provide financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 per pump for installation of 10 lakh pumps throughout the state.

With this initiative, an additional irrigation facility of 20 lakh hectares will be created.

6.3 Enhancement of Scholarship for Kanyashree

Sir, in the foregoing part of my speech, I had touched upon the outstanding and unprecedented success of Kanyashree Prakalpa. Encouraged by the success, I propose to enhance the annual scholarship amount under the scheme from Rs. 500 to Rs. 750. With this increase, the allocation for the Kanyashree Prakalpa will stand out Rs. 850 crore.

6.4 Strengthening Self Help Group movement

Sir, women constitute more than 90% of self-help group members. The increased credit linkage, increase in subsidy, Opening marketing facilities like Karma Tirtha, large scale engagement of SHGs in social welfare programmes like midday meal – school uniform etc. has assured continuous income-generating activities by the SHGs. The Muktidhara project in Purulia and Paschim Medinipur has met with huge success.

I now propose to create a Special Fund of Rs. 100 crores for scaling up Muktidhara project in Bankura, Birbhum, Dakshin Dinajpur and Cooch Behar. This proposed Rs. 100 crore support will facilitate another Rs. 900 crore credit to SHGs, making it a Rs. 1,000 crore stimulus.

6.5 Issue of Smart Portable Social Security Card, 'Samajik Mukti Card' to the Unorganised Workers of the State.

There are around 1.5 crore unorganised worker in the State. Out of this, 72 lakh workers have been covered under different Social Security Schemes. Samajik Mukti Card (Smart Card) has till now been issued to around 30 lakh unorganised workers. We plan to cover all the unorganised worker under the various Social Security

Schemes and issue Samajik Mukti Card (Smart Card) to 1.5 crore workers.

6.6 Social Security Package for transport workers

Around 10 lakh transport workers are covered under the West Bengal Transport Workers' Social Security Scheme.

Hon'ble Chief Minister has recently announced a special package for the transport workers by providing them facilities like pension of Rs. 1500 per month, Family Pension of Rs. 750 per month, health assistance up to Rs. 1,50,000, marriage and maternity benefit of Rs. 25,000 (twice) and also death benefit up to Rs. 2,00,000.

6.7 Incentives for Generation of Green Energy

Sir, our State has huge potential of renewable solar and wind energy.

In order to encourage power generation through renewable energy sources, I propose to extend the benefit of West Bengal Industrial promotion Scheme, 2010 to the manufacturers of Green Energy Equipments. I also propose to grant refund of 100% VAT paid on all the capital investments by the enterprises generating electricity from renewable sources of energy for a period of 10 years.

Conclusion

Honourable Speaker Sir and Honourable Members of this August House, to meet the Plan Commitment of 2015-16, I propose to provide Rs. 49,507.00 crore for the State Plan outlay. This is a huge 16% increase over the last year.

Employment generation lies at the heart of our development model. I am happy to state that during this financial year, we have already surpassed our target reaching 16,06,000 new employment opportunities. In 2015-16, we plan to create 17.5 lakh new employment opportunities.

Honourable Speaker Sir, once again demonstrating resolve of our Government led by the Honourable Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to take Bengal to new heights, I conclude with this the famous line of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam:

গাহি সাম্যের গান—

যেখানে আসিয়া এক হ'য়ে গেছে সব বাধা-ব্যবধান।

যেখানে মিশেছে হিন্দু-বৌদ্ধ মুসলিম-ক্রীশ্চান।

গাহি সাম্যের গান।

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2015-2016

WEST BENGAL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2015–2016

(In crores of Rupees)

	Actuals, 2013–2014	Budget, 2014–2015	Revised, 2014–2015	Budget, 2015–2016
Receipts				
1. Opening Balance	405.32	(–)7.00	(–)22.75	(–)3.00
2. Revenue Receipts	72881.79	105978.20	96466.11	113100.22
3. Receipts from Debt Heads—				
(i) Public Debt	47273.75	58569.89	59636.51	59825.98
(ii) Loans	1157.83	308.51	378.57	397.49
4. Receipts from Contingency Fund and Public Account	299705.87	230766.88	306668.71	306740.32
Total	421424.56	395616.48	463127.15	480061.01
Expenditure				
5. Revenue Expenditure	91797.27	105978.20	106827.98	113100.22
6. Capital Expenditure	6926.94	15120.67	13375.01	15627.61
7. Expenditure on Debt Heads—				
(i) Public Debt	29143.47	35437.26	38920.87	38894.21
(ii) Loans	663.31	477.39	523.60	751.97
8. Expenditure on Contingency Fund and Public Account	292916.32	238611.96	303482.69	311694.00
9. Closing Balance	(–)22.75	(–)9.00	(–)3.00	(–)7.00
Total	421424.56	395616.48	463127.15	480061.01

(In crores of Rupees)

	Actuals, 2013–2014	Budget, 2014–2015	Revised, 2014–2015	Budget, 2015–2016
Net Results—				
Surplus (+)				
Deficit (–)				
(a) On Revenue Account	(–)18915.48	0	(–)10361.87	0
(b) Outside Revenue Account	18487.41	(–)2.00	10381.62	(–)4.00
(c) Net, excluding Opening Balance	(–)428.07	(–)2.00	19.75	(–)4.00
(d) Net, including Opening Balance	(–)22.75	(–)9.00	(–)3.00	(–)7.00
(e) Expenditure for New Programmes/Additional Outlays/Additional Dearness Allowance				
(i) On Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(ii) Outside Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(f) Expenditure for Additional Outlays				
(i) On Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(ii) Outside Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(g) Additional Resource Mobilisation under Tax Revenue	..	..	..	..
(h) Net Revenue Deficit	(–)18915.48	0	(–)10361.87	0
(i) Net Surplus/Deficit	(–)22.75	(–)9.00	(–)3.00	(–)7.00