

ADDRESS
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR
GOVERNOR OF ORISSA

TO THE
ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

March 21, 2007

Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 10th session of the 13th Orissa Legislative Assembly. Through you, I convey my sincere greetings and best wishes to the people of the State, for a very happy and prosperous new year 2007.

2. The august House has expressed its deep condolences on the sad demise of Nandini Satpathy, Ex-Chief Minister, Gangadhar Mohapatra, Ex- Minister, Santosh Kumar Sahoo, Ex- Deputy Minister, Gajadhar Majhi, sitting Member, Indramani Rout, Achyutananda Mahakud, Chakradhara Satpathy, Jagateswar Mirdha, Purnachandra Deo Bhanja, Ananta Charan Majhi, Krushna Chandra Tripathy, Arjuna Nayak and Bipinbihari Das former Members of the House and Sangram Keshari, Ex-Sepoy of Indian Army. I would request you to join me in paying homage to Manmohan Tudu, Ex-Minister, Bhabagrahi Nayak, Nabakishore Mallick, Banamali Das and Baidyanath Rath, Ex-Members of the House and Padmanabha Sahu, Ex-Habildar, Indian Army who are no more with us. The House may convey our heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families. We will always remember their selfless service and dedication to the cause of the State.

3. During 1990-2000, the State economy had registered a compound annual growth rate of 3.8%. This rate has accelerated to 7.3% during the Tenth Plan Period as against the target of 6.2%. The Approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) has a focus on "faster and inclusive economic growth" as have been approved by the National Development Council. My Government have proposed an outlay of Rs.27,000 crores for the Eleventh Plan. With a view to

progressively reduce the gap between the per capita income of the State and the national average, it has been aimed at achieving an average annual growth rate of around 9% during the Eleventh Plan period. The proposed outlay for the year 2007-08, i.e., the first year of the Eleventh Plan has been fixed at Rs. 5105 Crore.

4. Pursuant to the 73rd and the 74th Constitutional Amendments, the State is committed to decentralising the Planning process in the State. With due representation from Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies, District Planning Committees (DPCs) have been constituted in all the 30 districts. The 11th Five Year Plan has a provision for flow of about 30% of the State's total outlay to the District Sector Schemes.

5. Correction of regional disparities has been receiving special attention in the Plan strategy. Whereas the Government of India have extended the Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) to the 11th Plan, the Special Central Assistance for the KBK region has been limited to only Rs. 130 crore per annum during the 11th Five Year Plan. In view of the very adverse socio-economic indicators and predominant tribal population of KBK area, my Government have launched a new initiative called the Biju KBK Plan to maintain and continue the momentum gained by the Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) and to streamline the public delivery system in the KBK region. This plan, which envisages annual outlay of Rs.120 crore has been implemented on a modest scale during the year 2006-07 and will be implemented in a full-fledged manner during the 11th Plan Period. The funds under this Scheme will be primarily utilized for

bridging critical gaps in development of infrastructure and livelihood support in these areas.

6. NABARD has been providing soft loan to the State Government for rural infrastructure development projects under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) programme. So far, the State has availed RIDF loan amounting to Rs.2,547.33 crore under Tranche-I to XII of the programme. Currently, Tranche-XII is in operation, for which State Government have recommended 21,211 projects worth Rs.986.91 crore. This includes 20,000 Shallow Tube Wells / Bore Wells / Dug Wells and 1,016 Biju Krushak Vikash Yojana projects. It is worth mentioning here that NABARD has adopted our innovative scheme "Biju Krushak Vikas Yojana" as a role model for the entire country.

7. Top priority has been accorded by my Government on generation of self-employment through various Self Employment Programmes. Realising the gravity of the unemployment problem in the State, my Government had formulated a State Employment Policy-2005 and have constituted a High Power Employment Mission under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister. Orissa State Employment Mission Society has also been formed and registered since 07.02.2006. The Society has the flexibility to work in a "Mission Mode". It acts as the apex body to implement the policy guidelines and strategies decided by the Mission.

8. Government of Orissa are committed to promoting prudent fiscal management for which various expenditure rationalization and

revenue generation measures have been taken up. The State's own tax GSDP ratio has increased from 4.7% in 1999-2000 to 7.9% in 2005-06. Similarly, the State's total own revenue as percentage of GSDP has increased from 6.3% in 1999-2000 to 10.3% in 2005-06. Consequently, the State has been able to achieve a Revenue Surplus of Rs.418.19 crore in 2005-06 after a gap of 22 years.

9. My Government accord high priority to developing the agriculture sector and achieving significant increases in agricultural production and productivity. The need for a paradigm shift from traditional agriculture to commercial cultivation of cash crops is now well recognized. The need for upgradation of crop production technologies adopted by our farmers and adoption of integrated nutrient management and pest management practices has been well recognized by my Government. To further this process, extension work will be stepped up and Farmers' Training Programme, Farmers' Field Schools and Demonstrations will be conducted under the Work Plan for Macro Management of Agriculture, ISOPOM, ICDP (Cotton) and other programmes for bringing the advanced crop production technologies and packages of practices to the doorstep of the farmers.

10. High priority has also been accorded to the task of developing the Horticulture in the State through the on-going programmes implemented through the National Horticulture Mission covering 19 districts and Horticulture Development in non-mission districts during 2006-07. As a result mango plantation over 14,045 hectares, 4,703 hectares of cashew plantation and 1,340 hectares under Banana

cultivation have been taken up during 2006-07. Replanting of cashew has been done in more than 672 hectares. To encourage farmers to take up vegetable cultivation 8 lakh vegetable seed minikits were supplied to the farmers at very nominal price. Government farms are properly utilized for production of planting materials and seed production.

For encouraging commercial floriculture in the State and educating farmers in the production technologies of different commercial flowers, this year planting materials and other inputs were provided to cover 520 hectares under floriculture. This will be stepped up substantially and will be extended to cover more than 2,000 hectares next year. Steps have been initiated for cultivation of spices like ginger and turmeric in the state. 1,865 hectares have been covered for the production of ginger and turmeric. There is a programme to cover 3,200 hectares in the next year.

Development of the Micro Watersheds in drought-prone areas of the State for drought proofing and improving the moisture regime has been accorded high priority. 4,884 micro watersheds with a total treatable area of 94 thousand hectares are being developed currently under various schemes such as Drought Prone Area Programme, Integrated Watershed Development Programme, National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas, River Valley Project, Revised Long Term Action Plan for KBK and the DFID assisted Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Programme. There is also a programme to treat 1.5 lakh hectares in watersheds during 2007-08 under the above schemes with active involvement of the beneficiary agricultural families.

11. Water is the most important input for agriculture. A programme has been drawn up to create additional irrigation potential of 59.54 thousand hectares during 2007-08. My Government aim at providing assured irrigation to the extent of at least 35% of the cultivable area in each Block during the 11th Plan. For this, District Irrigation Master Plans have been prepared. There is a programme to set up 1000 lift irrigation points during 2007-08 through various schemes including the Biju Krushak Vikash Yojana (BKVY). For research and development in water resources sector, agreement for Hydrology Project Phase-II has been signed with World Bank during 2006-07 and the project is under implementation. In order to minimize the gap between irrigation potential created and utilized and to enhance productivity and sustainability of existing irrigation projects with proper attention to drainage in the four northern river basins of the State as well as a part of Mahanadi Delta Stage-I area, Orissa Integrated Irrigated Agriculture and Water Management Project is being formulated for ADB assistance. The loan agreement is expected to be signed during 2007-08.

For rehabilitation of Minor Irrigation Projects, the Orissa Community Tanks Management Project is being prepared and agreement is expected to be signed with World Bank during 2007-08. Further, for comprehensive development of water resources in Mahanadi Basin, Mahanadi Basin Development Plan has been prepared. It has been cleared by the Planning Commission for posing it to World Bank for assistance. Formation of Water Users Associations through Pani Panchayat programme has been taken up

in a mission mode. By the end of December 2006, 13,565 Water Users Associations have been registered covering an area of 10.73 lakh hectares. Out of this, the task of operation & maintenance in respect of 8.78 lakh hectares has been handed over to 12,394 Pani Panchayats. There is a proposal to form 1,983 Pani Panchayats during 2007-08. There is also a proposal to take up schemes for additional livelihood support to the families of members of Pani Panchayats during 2007-08.

12. The National project on cattle and buffalo breeding is being implemented for a period of three years with an outlay of Rs.26.44 crore, in order to provide 100% breeding coverage to the breedable cattle and buffalo population of the State. Further great emphasis has been laid in the plan for enhancement of production of fish in our State. Fish seed production has reached 29.50 crore upto November 2006 in the Government sector. 138 reservoirs have been developed for scientific pisciculture. Master Plan for development of reservoir fishery has been prepared which will be implemented shortly.

13. Due to strengthening of short and long term co-operative credit structure in the State, the crop loan investment in the State has registered an impressive growth of 29% during 2004-05, 34% in Kharif 2004-05 and 58% during 2005-06. So far, 26.04 lakh Kissan Credit Cards (KCC) have been issued to the farmers enrolled as members of Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies (PACS) through Co-operative Banks for availing adequate and timely credit support both in cash and kind. In order to encourage timely disbursement of loans regularly, my Government have introduced

Kalinga Kissan Gold Cards and Kalinga Kissan Silver Cards for the farmers. The policy of providing short term agricultural credit loans to farmers at 7% subsidized rate of interest has been adopted through the Short Term Credit Co-operative Structures (STCCS) functioning in the State. Under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), 13.80 lakh farmers have been insured and compensation of Rs. 394.82 crore has been paid till December, 2006.

14. There are 9,813 Van Samrakshyan Samitis (VSS) involved in the State in joint forest management for forest protection and sharing of benefits. A sense of "owning the forest" has been created among the people, particularly tribal people by their active participation in joint forest management.

Five hundred decentralised nurseries have a target to produce 50 lakh seedlings for sale during 2007-08, through 500 selected VSS/SHG/ Individuals under different afforestation activities.

During 2005, significant success has been achieved in facilitating congregation and mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles at two coastal sites namely "Gahirmatha" and "Rushikulya mouth" areas. There was also a good and visible increase in congregation of migratory water-fowl in the Chilika Lake during this year. The Forest Department has also formed two new Committees to review conservation and protection and growth of tiger and other Schedule-1 species.

A State Bamboo Mission has been set up in line with the National Bamboo Mission for creating more employment

opportunities for the SC & ST people through sustainable development and utilisation of the bamboo resources of the State.

A strict and constant vigil has been kept on air and water pollution. To hear appeals preferred against any order made, my Government have constituted three appellate authorities under "Water Act", "Air Act" and "Biomedical Waste Rules". Thirty District Environment Societies have been constituted under the Chairmanship of the District Collectors. Government have instituted "Prakruti Mitra", and "Prakruti Bandhu" awards for voluntary Organizations/ Villages/ National Institutions and individuals respectively. Considering the impact of such awards in creating awareness for protection of forests and environment, this year the award has been extended to the Sub-divisional level.

15. Power Sector in Orissa is going through a process of restructuring and reforms since 1st April 1996. After separation of DISCOMs, OPTCL and GRIDCO have been assigned the work of power transmission in high voltages and trading respectively. During the recent past, OPTCL has commissioned many grid substations and transmission lines for quality and reliable power supply in the State. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuti Karan Yojana (RGGVY) has been launched by the Ministry of Power, Government of India in 2005, to provide access to electricity to all rural households in the next five years. The Scheme envisages 90% grant and 10% loan. The Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in respect of 28 districts in the State have already been submitted to REC Ltd, Ministry of Power, Government of India for sanction of financial assistance for RE projects under RGGVY. The Ministry of Power, Government of India

has so far sanctioned three projects for the districts of Angul, Nayagarh and Jajpur under the Scheme. Under Minimum Need Programme (MNP), 4,646 villages/hamlets/dalit bastis were programmed to be electrified. Out of this, electrification of 3,228 villages have been completed till November, 2006. Electrification of the rest of the villages is likely to be completed soon.

Energy demand is increasing at a fast rate and in order to meet it, the State has executed MoUs with thirteen private IPPS to set up thermal power projects with a total generation capacity of 14,990 MW. Besides, a joint venture company has been set up having equal share capital investment by OHPC and OMC for setting up of a thermal power project having capacity of 2000 MW.

16. The State has taken effective steps to facilitate setting up of integrated Steel Plants in the State by reputed Steel Companies like POSCO, Mittal Steel Company, TATA, Sterlite, Essar, Jindals, Bhusans, etc. 45 Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Steel Companies for setting up steel plants with total investment of about Rs.1,95,540 crore for production of about 74.65 million tonnes of steel per annum. M/s Mittal Steel Company and M/s POSCO, the World's largest and 3rd largest Steel Producers respectively have signed MoUs for setting up mega steel plants having a capacity of 12 million tonnes each per annum with an investment of about Rs.40,000 crore and Rs.51,000 crore respectively. Of the 45 companies who have signed MOUs with the State Government for establishment of steel industries, 23 have started production. So far, 9281 persons have got direct employment

while 18,848 have been indirectly employed. These companies have so far invested Rs.15,770 crore.

The Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC) has increased its production by 33% over the previous year. Iron ore production is slated to touch a peak of 40 lakh tonnes in the financial year 2006-07 which represents more than 40% increase over the previous year. Similarly, Chrome ore production of OMC is likely to be doubled during the year 2006-07. OMC has become the only State PSU in the country to implement Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), for which it got the prestigious Golden Peacock Award.

17. Orissa has already emerged as a major industrial destination. My Government have announced the Industrial Policy 2007, which aims at reinforcing environmentally sustainable industrial growth with a view of maximizing employment generation and augmenting tax revenues. The strategies adopted in the policy include strengthening of the Single Window Institutional Mechanism; infrastructure support for which, apart from other measures, an “Industrial and Allied Infrastructure Development Fund” with a corpus of Rs.100 crore is proposed to be launched; grant of need-based fiscal incentives; development of high quality competitive manpower; and putting in place an effective grievance redressal system by constituting a **Shilpa Adalat**. The Policy provides maximum fiscal incentives to micro, including Khadi & Village Industries, small, thrust and priority sector industries that have maximum spread effect in terms of employment generation and income distribution. It also provides for time-bound investment facilitation, and infrastructure support to large

and mega industries. In short, the Policy recognizes industrialization as a means to inclusive growth.

My Government are in the process of formulation of a robust Public - Private-Partnership (PPP) Policy to promote private investments in infrastructure development. Efforts to initiate PPP Projects include Paradeep-Haridaspur railway link, Dhamra Port, Gopalpur Port, etc. Government have also taken the initiative of promoting Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for attracting export oriented industries and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Considering the importance of Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) for the industrial development and employment generation and economic growth of the State, attention is being given to the revival and promotion of SSI and Medium Scale Industries in the State. Eligible SSI units are being given incentives like interest subsidy, reimbursement of sales tax and capital investment subsidy to improve the competitiveness of SSIs promoted under employment package. Steps have been taken to revamp the OSFC through One Time Settlement and one time infusion of capital.

Handicrafts and Cottage Industries have been declared as a priority sector. For development of handicraft in the State, a State Institute for Development of Arts and Crafts has been set up for superior designs, product development and training. The Strategy of cluster development has been adopted for developing different handicraft clusters. Linkages with existing schemes like PMRY and REGP are being established to promote entrepreneurs in Handicraft sector with linkage with artisans. State Handicraft Cooperative

Corporation is being revitalized and its Utkalika Branch at New Delhi has been revamped to provide an efficient platform for marketing the products in the country and abroad.

18. Since the handloom products of the State have got world wide reputation for its highly artistic design, colour combination and durability, my Government lay emphasis on organizing the weavers and modernizing the sector through several schemes continuing under State Plan, Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Plan. As handloom sector provides largest employment potential, my Government are taking initiative to promote these industries by providing workshed-cum-housing, interest subsidy, market access initiatives to the societies and swarojagar credit cards for weavers, Mahatma Gandhi Bunaker Bima Yojana health insurance scheme, one time settlement scheme and ACA for non-KBK districts. During the current year, my Government have set a target to promote 1,34,750 weavers.

19. Significant strides have been made in the field of Information Technology. Infocity, an area covering nearly 150 acres of land which includes land allocated to TCS, Wipro, Mind Tree Consulting and Hexware Technologies, has been converted to an IT SEZ. TCS, besides establishing a Development Centre with a capacity to house 300 IT professionals in Fortune Tower, has already started civil construction. Software export from the State is expected to touch Rs.700 crore in the current financial year. IT sector has been identified as a thrust area to generate large scale employment for general graduates. The President of India has laid the foundation

stone for opening of International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Bhubaneswar to produce quality manpower in the field of Information and Communication Technology for the growth of IT in the State of Orissa.

My Government have got the approval from Department of Information Technology, Government of India for setting up a State Wide Area Network (SWAN) which would connect the State Headquarters with all District Headquarters, Sub-division Headquarters, Block Headquarters and Tehsil Headquarters with a two mbps dedicated line. This SWAN is a core e-Governance infrastructure, which will facilitate delivery of various citizen- centric services at their doorsteps. The Oriya language pack under the programme "Technology Development for India, Languages: (TDIL)" has also been completed and released. This has enabled Oriya Language computing and therefore opened new doors of opportunity for the entire population of Orissa. Project e-Sishu, which aims at creating a database of the three pillars of education namely children, teachers and schools, has been taken up by OPEPA and is jointly being executed by OCAC and OPEPA. This would help in achieving our goal of universalisation of primary education and ensuring that no child in Orissa is left out of school.

20. Biotechnology is a frontier area of technology, promising immense benefit to society in diverse areas such as food security, nutritional supplementation, health care and industrial applications. Considering the diversified resources of the State, this cutting edge technology has a potential to make a significant contribution to the

economy of the State. It has been decided to set up a Bio-IT Park on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. It has also been decided to provide financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 10.00 crore in addition to land as share for development of the said Bio-IT Park.

For assessment of the potential of production of bio-diesel from locally available different non-edible vegetable oils, OFDC has set up a bio-diesel unit in collaboration with IIT Delhi and the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India in its premises along with a laboratory for conducting various experiments in this regard. In course of these experiments, efforts for production of bio-diesel from different kinds of non-edible vegetable oil are in progress.

Under Integrated Rural Energy Programme, a District has become the new unit of implementation instead of a Block. During the current financial year, the programme has been implemented in Koraput district with installation of Renewable Energy Saving devices, Biogas Plants, Improved Chullahs and SPV Lighting Systems. This programme is being implemented in eleven districts, covering eight KBK districts and three non-KBK Districts such as Ganjam, Sundargarh and Khurda.

21. Rural connectivity is a key component for development of rural areas. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 5,929.23 Km of all-weather roads have been constructed to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations. It has been targeted to construct another 3,450 km roads by March, 2007. With NABARD Assistance under RIDF, 172 bridges and 386.34 km roads have been completed. Construction of 61 more bridges and 687.00 km roads

has been taken up. Out of this, 28 bridges and 390.00 Km roads are targeted to be completed during 2006-07. It is proposed to complete 20 bridges and 379.100 km roads during 2007-08.

In order to improve sanitation coverage, Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is being carried out in all the 30 districts. The total project cost is around Rs.1,000 Crore. The objective of the Programme is to provide sanitation facilities in all rural households, all schools and all Anganwadi centers. Till date, 11,55,676 individual household latrines (IHLs), 14,091 School toilets and 5,414 Anganwadi toilets have been installed under this programme.

22. My Government stand committed to providing improved road communication system for increased accessibility to education, health services and employment opportunities. Accordingly, several road and bridge projects have been taken up with assistance from NABARD, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Central Road Fund, Additional Central Assistance, 12th Finance Commission grant and the State Sector programmes. The projects are being continuously monitored for timely completion. The State Government is also taking up construction of Vijayawada-Ranchi Highway which will immensely help the development of 12 tribal dominated Districts and to a great extent, help in tackling left-wing extremism. The Orissa portion of this Highway will cover 1219 Kms and is proposed to be implemented within a period of 3 to 4 years by way of convergence of resources from multiple sources. Government of India have supported this project and have committed an allocation of Rs.120 crore for the road stretch located in KBK districts besides providing additional central assistance to the tune of Rs.20 crore to start the project.

The State Government are preparing its Annual Plan for 2007-08 for development of road infrastructure in the State. During this period it has been targeted to improve 350.13 Kms of State Highway, MDR and ODR and complete 12 projects in the State Plan.

A multi-action road infrastructure development action plan with investment of Rs.2,231.59 crore over a period of five years under Orissa State Roads Project is under preparation to be posed to the World Bank for assistance.

23. The State Port Policy, 2004 has been formulated to develop thirteen potential port sites through private participation. Concession agreement has been signed on 14.9.2006 with Gopalpur Ports Private Limited for expansion, development and operation of Gopalpur Port on BOOST basis. For establishment of a mega port of international standards at Dhamra, Dhamra Port Company Limited, a Joint-Venture Company of L & T and TISCO, have commenced construction. For the development of Inland Water Transport Sector in the State, Government of India have sanctioned a sum of Rs.204.40 lakh under Centrally Sponsored Scheme and work is in progress. My Government has signed MoU with Creative Port Development Pvt. Limited, Chennai (CPDP), for development of an all-weather and multi-user Port at Subarnarekha mouth (Kirtania) in Balasore district on BOOST basis.

The Transport Sector in the State is in a transitional phase of development. Some of the major ongoing projects of modernization includes launching of Smart Card based Driving License and Registration certificate in major cities in the first phase. One e-

governance training center has been introduced at R.T.O. Office, Puri. E-detection of violation of M.V. Act and Rules by transport operators through video recording, extensive campaign against overloading, rationalization of bus timing, etc. have been operationalized. A series of projects are being planned under modernization programme in Transport Department. These include issue of fitness certificate on securitized papers, modernization of enforcement agency of OMVD, computerisation of border check gates, implementation of High Security Registration Plates, setting up a Heavy Vehicle Driving Training School and Road Safety Research center at Jajpur.

24. Tourism has tremendous potential to create large-scale employment. In fact, there is a multiplier effect of employment generation in the Tourism sector because of the variety of areas where direct and indirect job opportunities are created. Orissa has a lot of tourism projects to offer, as it has a rich cultural heritage manifest in the monuments, fairs and festivals, art and crafts, dance and music and bountiful nature manifest in beaches, lakes, forests and wildlife. My Government have taken up a lot of infrastructure development works both in the Public Sector as well as in the private sector to augment the facilities for the tourists. 297 places have been identified as " Identified Tourist Centres" for development of tourism. Apart from normal publicity and promotional activities done through publication of literature, production of audio visuals, launching of web sites, advertisements in print and electronic media, etc., Tourism Department is also preparing strategies to market Orissa tourism both within India and abroad using reputed electronic media. The

Department is also seriously pursuing to promote eco-tourism in close coordination with the Forest & Environment Department. It is also initiating a dialogue with Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation, (IRCTC) for operating a "Palace on Wheels" train through Orissa ex-Kolkata which will cover major tourist destinations in the State.

25. My Government aim at preserving, protecting and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the State. For promotion of Art and Culture, my Government have decided to enhance the grants of District Council of Culture functioning in 30 Districts of the State from Rs.30,000/- to Rs.1.00 lakh each. Further, under 12th Finance Commission grant, there is a provision of Rs.50.00 crore for restoration and preservation of historical monuments, Museums, improvement of roads to tourist destinations, Buddhist heritage sites, etc.

26. Universalisation of primary and elementary education will continue to get highest priority of my Government. Through special drive, 90.13% children in the age group of 6-14 have been enrolled in the Primary Schools. My Government have given utmost importance to prevent school dropouts which has resulted in reduction of the dropout rate to 5.23%. During the current academic year, free textbooks have been provided for 60,50,000 students at the Primary level. Further 27,69,297 girl students at the Primary level have been provided with free uniform through village education committees. For the first time this year, free uniforms have been supplied to the girl students of EGS Centers. In order to overcome the shortage of teachers, my Government have taken steps for engagement of

26,970 Sikhya Sahayak in Primary and Upper Primary Schools and contractual appointment of 3,471 teachers in Secondary Schools.

During the current session, Class-VIII has been included under "Sarva Sikshya Abhijan" (SSA) and facilities including construction of buildings are proposed to be provided to the students of Class-VIII. Government have set up 114 "Kasturba Gandhi" Vidyalayas and 2,633 Model Schools for the betterment of the girls' education. Various programmes have been undertaken for development of education of tribal students which include provision of bilingual primers in seven tribal languages for facilitating their reading and writing skills.

27. My Government have been making constant endeavour to improve the quality of Higher Education in the State. While making all out efforts to strengthen the existing educational system, it has also taken steps for opening of new avenues for the students by imparting need-based education. Currently, the salaries of non-aided Government colleges are being paid for the full financial year. Ravenshaw Unitary University has started functioning from 15.11.2006. MOU has been signed between Government of Orissa and Vedanta Foundation to establish a world-class multi disciplinary university in Orissa. Apart from that, Shri Shri Ravi Shanker Vidya Mandir Trust has also evinced interest in establishing a multi disciplinary university, which will provide quality teaching facilities for 15000 students.

28. My Government stand committed to providing quality health care to the people of the State. During the year 2006-07, the seats in

MBBS course in SCB Medical College have been enhanced from 107 to 150. Measures have also been taken to increase seats in VSS Medical College, Burla and MKCG Medical College, Berhampur. Steps have been taken to increase the bed capacity in different ward of SCB Medical College Hospital. Besides, Government have also issued NOC in favour of 17 Organisations for establishing Medical and Dental colleges in the private sector in order to meet the scarcity of doctors in the State. National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in Orissa on the 17th of June, 2005 in order to provide effective health care to the rural masses, especially the disadvantaged groups including women and children. An innovative scheme named Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) functions under NRHM to provide first point health contact in the villages. At present, 12,729 ASHA have already been trained in all the 30 districts. Programmes like village Health Plan, Janani Surakshya Yojana, AYUSH, Immunization, etc. are implemented through NRHM to provide effective health services to the people of rural areas. My Government have launched telemedicine technology in three medical colleges of the State to provide tele health care to patients requiring more advanced consultation. Telemedicine network has also been extended to the District Headquarters Hospitals of Koraput, Rayagada, Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, Sundargarh and Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar.

29. Under the auspices of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), City Development Plans of Bhubaneswar and Puri have been prepared. The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has already been signed by the Government of

India, the Government of Orissa and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. Four Detailed Project Reports have been submitted to the Government of India for sanction of funds in respect of Bhubaneswar City. Under UIDSSMT scheme of the Government of India, three towns namely, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Berhampur have been selected. IDSMT Scheme has been merged with UIDSSMT. During the year 2006-07, 32 projects have been completed out of 59 projects taken up. The Integrated Sewerage and Drainage Project, Cuttack has been taken up with funding from Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) Scheme has been implemented in all the Urban Local Bodies with an objective to uplift the urban poor, especially, families headed by women, physically handicapped persons and SC & ST families. Under the scheme, 1,690 persons have been benefited under USEP(S), 634 persons have been trained under USEP(T) and 11,901 mandays have been generated under UWEP.

30. My Government have devolved power and responsibilities, in respect of 21 out of 29 subjects in the 11th Schedule of the Constitution to the control of three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in order to enable them to function as Institutions of Self Government. MoU has been signed with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India for effective devolution of functions, funds and functionaries as per the mandate of the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India.

My Government have been implementing the Employment Guarantee Programme under NREGA in right earnest. The Orissa Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been formulated under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in order to give effect to the provisions of entitlement and rights for the rural job seekers envisaged under the Act. With a view to facilitating the payment of minimum wages to rural job seekers under this Scheme, the State Government have revised the rate of earthwork in the State. Due to sustained efforts, 28.58 lakh households have been registered under the scheme out of which 25.38 lakh households have been issued with Job Cards. A sum of Rs.540.33 crore has been utilized by the end of February, 2007 giving employment to 13.08 lakh households who had applied for work.

The State has received Rs.129.12 crore including State Matching Share to construct 80,228 IAY houses during 2006-07, out of which 27,140 houses have been completed by the end of November, 2006. 96.13 lakh mandays have been generated utilizing 30,240.61 MT of food-grains in eleven districts under Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana during 2006-07. Special component of SGRY is being implemented in natural calamity affected areas to provide additional wage employment to the rural people to ensure food security. Under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), assistance has been provided to 29,474 Swarozgaris during the current financial year.

My Government have launched a new initiative called "GOPABANDHU GRAMEEN YOJANA" to bridge critical infrastructural gap in the eleven non-NREGA/ BRGF districts. This

Yojana shall provide additional developmental assistance to people in the eleven districts with a focus on critical infrastructure like electrification, rural connectivity, and provision of drinking water and irrigation. Another new scheme named Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme has been launched with Central Assistance in nineteen districts of the State from the current financial year. 3,670 Gram Panchayats in 205 Panchayat Samities, 22 Municipalities and 48 N.A.Cs have been covered under this programme. My Government have prepared one externally aided Project, named "Targeted Rural Initiative for Poverty Termination and Infrastructure (TRIPTI) to be implemented in ten districts of the State namely, Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh and Cuttack. About 38 Blocks of these districts will be covered under the project.

31. The Public Distribution System is functioning effectively through a wide network in the State to provide food-grains at subsidized price to Below Poverty Line families. Under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, 12,64,500 poorest of the poor families were provided with 35 kg rice each at highly subsidized price of Rs. 3/- per Kg. Under Annapurna Scheme, 64,800 senior citizens, who have not been covered under Old Age Pension Scheme, are being provided 10 Kg. rice per beneficiary per month free of cost. In order to ensure Minimum Support Price to farmers for the paddy produced by them, my Government have decided to procure 22 lakh MT rice during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2006-07.

32. The percentage of literacy among ST and SC male and female as per the 2001 census shows marked improvement in comparison to

the percentage as per the 1991 census. To check dropouts my Government have taken various steps which include free distribution of books, stationery, pre-Matric and post-Matric scholarship and providing accommodation in hostels. Special and sustained educational initiatives/ drives are being launched all over the State, and more intensively in the scheduled areas and the KBK districts. It has been decided to open 1,000 hostels for girl students to check dropouts among the ST girls. Each hostel will accommodate 100 tribal girls studying in pre-Matric classes. Out of 1,000 hostels, 557 hostels have already started functioning. Eight High Schools have been upgraded as Higher Secondary Schools with Science and Commerce streams in eight KBK districts and started functioning during 2006-07.

My Government have decided to provide bicycles to each tribal girl student, who has passed Matriculation and has taken admission in a college. This scheme is to promote education and empower tribal girls in their formative age in all the Scheduled Areas.

For upgradation of merit of SC students reading in Class IX and X, standard, Rs.1.27 crore have been provided for special coaching. 400 ST Girls' Hostels in KBK districts have been made functional under RLTAAP. Scholarships have been awarded to 4,71,631 ST students and 4,27,097 SC students during the year 2006-07.

The ST population in the State is closely attached to their land and forests. Special Central Assistance (SCA) for TSP areas is provided for family oriented income generating schemes. Thrust is given to land based loan-delinked programmes in sectors of irrigation,

soil conservation, water conservation, agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, etc. About 30% of the Special Central Assistance is used for development of infrastructure incidental to income generating schemes. During the year 2006-07, our State received Rs.7,695.87 lakh under SCA to Tribal Sub-Plan. This will provide benefit to 65,502 ST families leaving below the poverty line. 4,211 women Self Help Groups having 47,716 women members have been formed and financed under SCA.

Grant received from the Government of India under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India is being spent for development of communication by way of providing roads, bridges, culverts, CD works, etc. in addition to construction of hostels and school buildings including Model Schools for decent living of the SC and ST students.

Under Janashree Bima Yojana, an amount of Rs. 37.50 lakh has been spent towards Insurance coverage of 7,500 primitive tribal families. It has been decided to cover the remaining 9,000 primitive tribal families under this scheme in the coming two years. 2,733 ST/SC youths have been trained in different vocational trades through I.T.Is/Polytechnics in 2005-06

With a view to improving the income of the tribal households and the productivity of their land to provide them a better livelihood support, an Externally Assisted programme named "Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme" (OTELP) is operating in 30 tribal Blocks of seven southern districts.

My Government have prohibited transfer of tribal land in scheduled areas to non-tribals and are ensuring implementation of Moneylender Act, Prevention of Atrocities on SCs. and STs Act and Orissa Reservation of Vacancies Act effectively.

33. My Government aim at holistic development of the children, pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls through the Integrated Child Development Services Programme (ICDS). All 326 ICDS Projects of the State has been covered under the Kishori Shakti Yojana, which aims at holistic development of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years. Special interventions like reduction of malnutrition, child mortality and construction of Anganwadi Centers in KBK districts have been taken up under RLTA. All under-nourished adolescent girls and pregnant and nourishing women of BPL category in Koraput and Kalahandi districts are provided free rice at the rate of 6 Kg per month under National Nutrition Mission. 4,217 new AWCs and 3,111 mini AWCs are going to be operationalised during 2007-08.

About 50 lakh school children studying in 67,598 Primary Schools are being covered under Mid Day Meal Programme. Cooked food to the old, infirm, indigent and destitute persons is provided with Central Assistance under RLTA under the Emergency Feeding Programme in KBK districts. The Social Old Age Pension and National old age Pension to the elderly destitute, widows and leprosy patients have been increased from Rs.100/- to Rs.200/- per month. 46 old age Homes, 71 Day care centers, 32 Drug De-addiction centers and 5 Mobile Medicare units are continuing through NGOs for maintenance of old, destitute and diseased persons.

Under "Mission Shakti", 2,05,718 Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) have been formed for empowerment of women through economic activity. 26,39,481 beneficiaries in 37,434 Revenue villages have availed credit facilities of Rs.180.67 crore with saving of Rs.236.28 crore. 24 Swadhar Homes, 34 Short Stay Homes, 6 Rehabilitation centers for women in distress are functioning through NGOs in our State, for welfare of the destitute women. My Government have introduced Mahila and Sishu Desk, in 210 Police Stations in the State for redressal of crimes against women and children. 5,600 orphans are being taken care of through 85 orphanages in the State. My Government have recently enhanced the limit of expenditure for each orphan beneficiary from Rs.300/- to Rs.500/- per month.

34. My Government stand committed to the welfare of the working classes and have already decided to revise the Minimum Rates of Wages payable to the different categories of workers. All possible steps are being taken to eliminate Child Labour from the State. Efforts are being made to rehabilitate at least one member of the family of the Child Labour in some scheme or the other. An Integrated Child Labour Action Plan with the objective of rehabilitating Child Labour and their families meaningfully through convergence of activities of different Departments of Government is being finalized soon.

35. A programme named "Orissa Modernizing Government initiatives" has been started during the year. My Government has taken up a project for "Human Resource Management System"

(HRMS) for modernization of personnel management on top priority with the aim to improve public service delivery system. Given the size of Government personnel in the State Government and the complexities of the problems related to personnel, modernization of the Human Resources Management System has been considered as a major enabler for an efficient, effective and citizen-centric administration. Under this programme, foundation data of over two lakh employees have already been collected. Under the OMGI programme, District OMGI Coordinators have so far been engaged in six districts for better facilitation of the on-going reform soon. To improve the appraisal of performance of civil servants, the lengthy format prevalent for appraisal through Confidential Character Roll (CCR) has been replaced with the new Performance Appraisal Report (PAR). This has simplified the process of monitoring and evaluation of performance of the Government employees.

36. In an attempt to intensify Information, Education and Communication activities on development front, my Government have applied it through Print, Electronic and Interpersonal media appropriately. Issues pertaining to basic services have been highlighted to increase awareness of the public. Song and Drama depicting Orissan culture and heritage have been staged at important places of the country along with visual treatment including at the IITF, New Delhi. Considering the better appeal and reach of Doordarshan, a feature containing the growth and development in various sectors is being presented on weekly basis with a motto to elicit active co-operation of the public in the process of development. In order to accelerate the process of implementation of the Right to Information

Act, 2005, my Government have formulated necessary guidelines and procedures. All Public Authorities have been impressed upon to effect greater transparency and accountability in the system of governance.

37. The programme of distribution of Land Pass Books to all the individual land holding families of the State has been launched. By the end of December, 2006, 4,48,636 Land Pass Books have been distributed among the people in the State. The scheme of Computerisation of Tehsils with full assistance of the Government of India is running successfully. Out of 171 Tehsils in the State, 167 Tehsils have so far been computerised. As a result, people are getting computerised pattas, certified copies of land records, etc. very easily. My Government have provided house sites admeasuring 1,420.005 acres to 39,423 homesteadless families by the end of December, 2006 for building their houses. During the year 2006-07 (Upto December, 2006), 2,360 landless families have been distributed with wasteland to the extent of 2,109.25 acres for agricultural purposes.

38. The provisions relating to punishment for the Excise Offences have been made more stringent by my Government by amending the Bihar and Orissa Excise Act., 1915 through Bihar and Orissa Excise (Orissa Amendment) Act, 2006 during the current year. Excise Offences have been made non-bailable in many cases. Excise Officers have been empowered with Police Power in investigating Excise Cases. Provisions have also been made in the said Act for opening of excise shops by the Government organisations without taking licence with a view to breaking the dishonest alliance of the

liquor traders. The monopoly in wholesale trade in India Made Foreign Liquor and Country Spirit has been taken over by the Government through Orissa State Beverages Corporation Ltd. since 2001. This has helped in checking illicit liquor trade to a great extent. As a result, the collection of Excise Revenue has increased substantially.

In the year 2006-07, a total number of 1,06,408 cases have been disposed of in 474 Lok Adalats organised by the Orissa State Legal Services Authority through the District Legal Services Authority and Taluk Legal Services Committee of the State. In order to dispose of the large number of pending cases in various Courts, my Government have established permanent and continuous Lok Adalats alongwith conciliation centers in the High Court Legal Services Committee and District headquarters of the State as an Alternate Dispute Resolution. Eight hours "Help Line" has been provided by my Government in the premises of the Office of the Orissa State Legal Services Authority to provide free Legal Advice to the needy people.

39. The overall law and order situation in the State remained, by and large satisfactory. The agitational activities by various groups were handled tactfully and effectively. There was no major student agitation nor labour or agrarian unrest. Communal harmony was maintained. For maintenance of Law and Order, 20 Mobile patrol units have been introduced in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar cities, eight more sub-groups of Special Operation Group and a Police Station at INFOCITY, Bhubaneswar have been established during the current year.

Left-Wing extremism continues to be a cause of concern in some parts of the State. Sustained anti-Naxalite operations have yielded good results. In order to improve the overall quality of policing and especially to effectively counter the Left- Wing Extremist activities, 6,011 posts in various ranks of State police have been sanctioned. This includes augmentation of staff strength of 83 Naxal affected police stations of the State and creation of four Orissa State Armed Police (Special Security) Battalions for Naxal affected areas. There was a significant decline in civilian casualties due to Naxalite violence during the year upto December .28, 2006. The Security forces achieved significant success in anti-Naxalite drive by arresting a few key militants of CPI (Maoist). The Orissa Police is modernising fast by improving the mobility, equipment, weaponry, communications, training and accommodation of the police force.

My Government have made accelerated progress in modernisation of Prisons. Under the Centrally Sponsored Non-Plan Scheme for Prison Reforms, Construction of new Sub-Jails at Kendrapara, Nayagarh and Patrapur, forty-six staff quarters, upgradation of fifteen Sub-Jails to District Jails, renovation and repair of seventeen existing jails and improvement of sanitation and water supply of thirty different jails have been taken up during the year 2006-07. Besides, watchtowers and fortification works have been taken up in six jails in naxalite affected areas.

To bring reform in Police administration, my Government have taken steps to separate the investigating wing from the Law and Order Wing of Police to ensure speedier investigation, better

expertise and improved support with the people. To start with, the State Government have decided to introduce the system in twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. My Government are contemplating to put in place a new Police Act replacing the age old Indian Police Act, 1861. A high level committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary has been constituted to recommend a draft legislation.

40. My Government are promoting indigenous sports talent through creation/development of sports infrastructure, extension of special coaching facilities and provision of sports materials, etc. Biju Pattnaik Swimming Pool Complex of international standard has been constructed inside the Kalinga Stadium premises, Bhubaneswar. The Synthetic Hockey Surface at Sports hostel, Panposh, Rourkela has been re-laid at a cost of Rs. 165.00 lakh, for regular use by the hockey players of the State with an objective of participation in national / inter national competitions. We are proud that the Women State Football Team created history by becoming champion in the National Women Football Championship. The State School Football team lifted the champion's trophy in the first National Inter-School Tournament held at Firozpur (Punjab). The State had a significant share in the contingent of Indian Men and Women Hockey team, which participated in the recently concluded Asian Games at Doha. The National Women Football team has also remarkable representation from the State. In the recently concluded SAF Asian Federation Games held at Colombo, Smt. Anuradha Biswal won Gold medal in 100 Mtrs. Hurdles and Silver in 4 x 100 Mtrs. Relay. Similarly, Miss Jhililata Sena was a playing member of the Indian Women volleyball Team which won Gold Medal defeating Srilanka in

the Final match. We congratulate them for their success. They have brought glory to the State.

My Government are striving hard to implement all the programmes and fulfill the promises it had made for the welfare of the people of the State. My Government will pursue these policies relentlessly for a better livelihood support for weaker sections of the society with the support of the Central Government. I hope that Hon'ble Members of this august House will extend their full cooperation and support to the progressive and forward looking policies and programmes of my Government.

With these words, I leave you to your deliberations and wish you all success.

Jai Hind.
