

Mr Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming you all to the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the 13<sup>th</sup> Orissa Legislative Assembly. Through you, I convey my sincere greetings and best wishes to the people of Orissa for a very happy and prosperous New Year, 2008.

2. The August House has expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of Late Chandrashekhar, Ex-Prime Minister of India, Pradipta Kishore Das, Murari Prasad Mishra, Ex-Ministers, Anantaram Majhi, Sitting Member, Rama Chandra Sethy, Bidyadhar Naik, Kishorimani Singh, Barada Prasanna Kanhar, Raja Saheb Trilochan Singh Deo, Bhimsen Mandal, Rameswar Singh Naik, Jagannath Tripathy, Bhagaban Bhoi, Shashibhusan Pradhan, Ex-Members of the House and Dinabandhu Pal, Ex-Constable, Border Security Force and Kunal Pradhan, Ex-Sepoy, Indian Army. I would request you to join me in paying homage to Uchhab Charan Jena, Gourishyam Naik and Tribikram Mallik, Ex-members of the House 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 and the nation.

3. During the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan period, Orissa had witnessed a higher average annual economic growth of about 7.2% against the targeted growth rate of 6.2% per annum. This is substantially higher than the annual average growth rate of only 2.30% during the 8<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and 5.2% during the 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

4. In accordance with the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Approach Paper and keeping in view the developmental imperatives for Orissa, my Government aims at: (i) faster and broad-based inclusive growth at an annual average rate of 9% with more than 4% annual growth rate in agriculture and allied sector and (ii) higher rate of poverty reduction during the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan period. In order to achieve these objectives, Plan allocations have been substantially increased from Rs.19000 crore during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan to Rs.32225 crore for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

5. Irrigation is the most critical input for improved agricultural production. The year 2008 has been declared as the “Year of Irrigation”. My Government is making an endeavour to increase the irrigation potential by way of completing the ongoing irrigation projects and taking up new projects. During 2007-08 (by December), an additional irrigation potential of 23,214 hectares has been created. The cumulative irrigation potential created through major & medium and minor (flow and lift) irrigation

projects since inception up to December, 2007 is 21.98 lakh hectares. Due emphasis is being put on minor irrigation (both flow and lift) projects for increasing irrigation coverage at a faster pace and in a dispersed manner. My Government has started an ambitious programme of starting an irrigation project of Rs.5.00 lakhs in every village which has less than 35% of irrigation facility.

To optimize water use efficiency, Command Area Development activities have been taken up in major and medium irrigation projects. Steps have been initiated to ensure availability of water at the tail-end in the Hirakud Command. For effective convergence between Command Area Development programmes and Participatory Irrigation Management, a CAD & PIM Directorate has been established in the Water Resources Department. By end of December, 2007, 9.83 lakh hectare irrigated command has been handed over to 14,554 nos. of Pani Panchayats for operation and maintenance of the distribution system below minor canals. In the year 2000, the Government of Orissa started the Pani Panchayat movement for participatory irrigation management. This has led to a holistic water use of our irrigation projects. During this period, field channels covering an area of 4.30

lakh hectares and field drains covering an area of 1.23 lakh hectares have been constructed.

Under World Bank assisted Orissa Community Tank Management Project (OCTMP) 900 nos. of Minor Irrigation Projects (MIPs) are proposed to be renovated. As a result irrigation in 1.20 lakh hectares will be stabilized.

Implementation of Asian Development Bank assisted Orissa Integrated Irrigated Agriculture and Water Management Project (OIIAWMP) is going to commence shortly. Under this programme, modernization of 6 major irrigation projects, 9 medium irrigation projects and 1400 minor lift irrigation schemes will be taken up in Brahmani-Baitarani-Budhabalanga-Subarnarekha river basins including a part of Mahanadi Delta Stage-I.

Under World Bank assisted proposed Orissa Water Sector Improvement Project (OWSIP), stabilization of 1.52 lakh hectares of existing ayacut will be taken up.

6. Agriculture is the mainstay of the rural economy in Orissa. My Government has been giving utmost priority to the development of this sector.

My Government has announced an attractive package for all-round development of farmers of the State.

My Government is also keen to achieve the targeted growth rate of 4 % in agriculture sector at the end of 11th five year plan in line with the envisaged national goal.

Seed is the basic agricultural input for increasing production and productivity. Massive efforts have been put in for increasing Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) by supply of quality seeds of various food crops. This endeavour has led to a significant achievement in enhancing the SRR in case of paddy and non-paddy seeds. Besides, efforts are on to be self-sufficient in quality seed production. In addition to the existing seed processing plants in 27 districts, it has been programmed to establish another three numbers of processing plants in the rest of the districts, which would cover all districts of the state.

Organic farming is the call of the day. Owing to increased global demand for organic products, Government have laid emphasis on promotion of organic farming in the State. Certain districts like Kandhmal have an excellent potential for organic farming. My Government is taking special measures for promoting organic farming in the district of Kandhmal. 57 nos. of vermi-hatcheries have already been established in the State and efforts are in full swing to establish another 100 nos. during 2007-08. By next year all the 314 blocks will have one vermi-hatchery each.

Soil health is increasingly becoming an issue before us due to intensive agriculture being practiced state-wide. Massive steps are being taken for sustaining soil health. In a bid to keep a track on the soil health, soil testing facilities and soil ameliorative measures are being taken up on large scale. During this year, 77,140 soil health cards have already been issued to farmers with recommendations for use of balanced fertilizer. It is heartening to note that the fertilizer consumption of the State has gone up from the earlier 47 kg to 53 kg per hectare in the last kharif season.

“Farmers Training” is a way to disseminate new technology in the field of agriculture for getting higher production. A number of training programmes are being organised under various schemes to update the knowledge of the farmers as well as the field functionaries on the latest developments in agriculture technology. In addition to the above, 4200 nos. of field demonstrations have already been organised through out the state to educate the farmers on System of Rice Intensification (SRI), a new tool to enhance rice production.

For optimum exploitation of ground as well as surface water in order to increase the irrigation efficiency, a massive programme has been take up from 2000-01 with

creation of 54,478 shallow tube wells, 6,436 deep bore wells and 592 surface lifts. Steps are being taken on war footing to achieve irrigation potential of 35 % in each block. A new programme called “Jalanidhi” has been launched according to which tube wells and bore wells will be taken up in farmer’s fields at subsidised rates.

My Government is also contemplating to announce the “New Agriculture Policy” soon for all-round development in the Agriculture Sector.

7. During 2007-08, 5 more districts i.e. Angul, Bargarh, Deogarh, Sambalpur and Sundergarh have been included under National Horticulture Mission. Now the total number of districts covered under this Mission has increased to 24. As a result 15,200 hectares of mango, 6100 hectares cashew, 669 hectares of aunla, 483 hectares citrus fruit, 302 hectares banana have been planted during 2007-08. Additional 25,000 hectares will be brought under different food crops during 2008-09. During this period, 946 hectares have been brought under cultivation of flowers. There is a programme for taking up 2200 hectares under Floriculture in 2008-09.

8. The Cooperative Banks have issued 28.17 lakh Kissan Credit Cards (KCCs) to the farmer members of Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies (PACS) since inception of the scheme in 1998-99 till 30<sup>th</sup> November,

2007 against a target of 30.00 lakh to be achieved by end of the year 2007-08. Out of this 1.29 lakh KCCs have been disbursed during 2007-08 till 30.11.07.

To enable the Co-operative Banks to extend crop loans at an interest of 7% per annum, my Government has provided subvention/interest subsidy to the extent of Rs. 33.00 crore to the STCCS for the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08. My Government will continue to provide interest subvention to enable the Cooperative Banks to provide crop loans at 7% interest rate during 2008-09.

To ensure smooth flow of agricultural credit, the cooperative credit societies in the State will be provided financial assistance to wipe out their accumulated losses. Implementation of the Revival Package in terms of the Vaidyanathan Committee recommendations will begin this year. As per the assessment made through Special Audit of all the Primary Societies, the total financial assistance to be provided to the PACS works out to Rs. 772.20 crores – the share of the Union Government, the State Government and the institution themselves being Rs.644.79 crore, Rs.71.56 crore and Rs.55.85 crore respectively.

9. Livestock has a major role in rural economy as an assured income and employment to vast majority of



people of Orissa living in rural areas particularly for the people living below the poverty line. My Government has also been giving importance to increased fish production considering the vast scope available in the State for employment and income generation in this sector. The State Reservoir Fishery Policy was promulgated during 2003-04 with the aim to enhance fish production thereby providing livelihood support to poor fishermen. Infrastructural facilities as per Master plan are being provided under different ongoing programmes of the State Government as well as Government of India for scientific management and enhancing the fish production. Further, after closure of Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) programme, planning has been made for development of Pisciculture in leftover reservoir of KBK districts under the Biju KBK Plan. Apart from providing necessary support to the fishermen, my Government have also launched different welfare programmes for the fishermen like Group Accident Insurance, Saving-cum-relief and Low cost houses for the fishermen.

10. My Government has been according very high priority on generation of self-employment opportunities through various Self Employment Programmes which are being implemented in a Mission mode. The State Employment Mission, which has been functioning since

2006 has been continuously monitoring the programmes implemented through different Departments for achieving the above objective.

11. My Government has universalized Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) Programme in all the 314 blocks in the State. 41697 Anganwadi Centres functioning in the State are providing package of services including Supplementary Nutrition to 42.02 lakh children below 6 years of age and 7.84 lakh pregnant women and lactating mothers.

42.31 lakh of children who are students of Class-I-V are being provided Mid-Day Meals in Government, Government aided primary schools including Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) / Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) centers. 5.26 lakh students reading in Class-VI-VIII in 172 identified Educationally Backward Blocks in 22 districts are also being provided Mid-Day Meal.

Two lakh old, infirm and indigent persons belonging to BPL households are provided with cooked meals everyday throughout the year in all the 8 KBK districts through the Anganwadi Centers under Emergency Feeding Programme.

Under Mission Shakti, 3 lakh Women SHG have been formed and they have been provided credit linkages of more than Rs.710.73 crores by November, 2007. Strengthening of federation, skill up-gradation and provision of marketing linkages and insurance are being given priority under Mission Shakti.

Madhubabu Pension Yojana (MBPY) has been launched by merging SOAP & ODP & covering AIDS positive cases in addition. 3 lakh additional beneficiaries will be covered under MBPY from January, 2008 over and above 9 lakh being covered at present.

Atma Niyukti Paramarsa Mela (ANPM) are being organized under each Block along with single window camps to provide package of services to the differently abled persons in the State.

12. My Government recognizes the vast potential that exists in the State to attract tourists because of its rich cultural heritage and bountiful nature manifest in its beaches, lakes, forests and wild life. My Government have taken aggressive Promotion & Publicity measures through publication of literature in foreign languages, Production of Audio Visuals, Organization & Advertisement in Print & Electronic Media, etc. to attract tourists.

13. My Government has signed 49 Memoranda of Understanding with Steel Companies for setting up steel plants with total investment of about Rs.1,97,025 crore for production of about 74.66 Million Tonnes of Steel which includes one pelletisation plant of 4.00 Million Tonnes capacity. Out of the 49 MoUs, 26 companies have started partial production and these companies have achieved the capacity of producing 3.32 MTPA of Steel, 3.96 MTPA of Sponge Iron, 0.45 MTPA of Pig Iron and 0.15 MTPA of Ferro Chrome. These industries have provided direct and indirect employment to 12,345 and 25,359 persons respectively. Investment to the tune of Rs.16,560 crore has been made so far by different promoters for setting up the industries.

Royalty from minerals is one of the major sources of non-Tax Revenue of the State. Government of India through a notification dated 1.8.2007 have revised the rate of coal royalty from tonnage basis to a hybrid one. However, there has been a delay of two years. My Government has moved the Government of India for suitable compensation for the delay in the revision of royalty. My Government has also demanded that royalty should be fully advalorem and the clause relating to the adjustment of royalty for any other cess / tax should be deleted.

14. The new Industrial Policy 2007 enunciates most forward looking and unique approaches towards balanced industrial growth. Its major focus is on quality institutional support, infrastructure development, liberal incentives package, human resources augmentation, timely and responsive grievance redressal. During the year 2007, the State has been able to initiate substantive promotion of large scale employment generation and value-addition sectors like auto components manufacture, shipbuilding and rare earth based metals. An auto complex is under implementation at Choudwar with RSB Group as the anchor tenant. The development of a mega shipbuilding yard has been initiated in Bhadrak district by Apeejay Surendra Group. A titanium based metals complex is being promoted by the Saraf Group in Ganjam district.

My Government has launched ambitious reform programmes for the ITIs, polytechnics and other centers of vocational education with an ultimate goal to have at least one ITI in each of the 314 blocks of the State. Many of the upcoming industrial projects are taking keen interest in supporting the local ITIs to improve their infrastructure, training facilities, laboratories, syllabi in order to build the capacities and skills of the local workforce making them highly employable.

A cluster approach to development of micro, medium and small enterprises is gradually being adopted in sectors like handloom & textiles, handicrafts & cottage industries, ancillary and downstream/upstream industries. To further the agenda of enlargement of micro, small & medium enterprises domain, my Government is working on a proposed policy framework that would dedicatedly target interventions towards supporting small industries.

15. Steps have already been taken to institute a system of good corporate governance practices in eight selective core sector enterprises. My Government is implementing restructuring plan in respect of Orissa Lift Irrigation Corporation, Orissa State Finance Corporation, Orissa Stage Road Transport Corporation and Orissa Financial Development Corporation. Besides this, during the financial year 2007-08, Orissa State Seeds Corporation, Orissa State Civil Supplies Corporation, Orissa Bridge Construction Corporation and Orissa Construction Corporation are also identified for restructuring.

16. Orissa has a rich heritage of handloom and handicrafts. It is one of the major handloom producing States of the country. These sectors offer gainful employment to above 4 lakh weavers and 1.5 lakh artisans. One special package for the benefit of the weavers of the state is being implemented at present. My

Government has come out with a special package for Handloom weavers. Apart from allocating more funds for handloom sector for skill upgradation, yarn banks and building infrastructure etc. in cluster development activities, due care is being taken to establish forward linkage through Apparel Training & Designing Centre (ATDC). Vigorous steps are also being taken for backward integration of the sector with sericulture for increasing production of silk, tassar and eri yarns. Similarly a special package has also been announced for the Handicrafts sector, which includes training for skill upgradation, design support, exposure visit for the artisans, a Welfare Fund for the handicrafts workers, etc.

17. My Government is currently focusing on three major areas namely providing citizen centric e-Governance services, investment promotion and creating an enabling environment for IT applications in Government processes by sensitizing Government employees through training and change management.

Under the National e-Governance Plan, a State Wide Area Network in 30 districts, 58 sub-divisions, 171 tahasils, and 314 blocks interconnecting with the State headquarters is under implementation. 8558 Common Service Centres with information kiosks at Gram Panchayat level are being established to reach the rural

population with citizen centric Government services. District Information Services Councils have been constituted to act as district level coordinating agency for the e-Governance activities. A pilot project for web enabled tendering and procurement process has been launched.

My Government has successfully launched several IT initiatives in various Government Departments. These include the e-Sishu project for the School & Mass Education Department. The project received “5<sup>th</sup> India tech Excellence Award” and adjudged the best Government Website in the “10<sup>th</sup> National Conference on e-Governance” in 2007. BETAN, the Payroll Information System has been implemented in all Departments and 314 blocks in Orissa. E-Pragati project is being implemented by the Women & Child Development Department for welfare of children, women, old, infirm and destitute in the state. Major e-Governance initiatives are underway in 103 Urban Local Bodies in the State. A major initiative has been taken for digitization of all revenue maps in the State.

18. Considering the immense benefit that Biotechnology offers to the Society, my Government has taken steps for establishment of a Biotechnology Park in the State. Biotech Pharma IT Park is being developed at Mouza



Andharua under Bhubaneswar Tahsil over an area of 65 acres on Public Private Partnership mode. During Phase-I, a Biotech Incubation Centre will be established over 10 acres of land in the premises of the Park. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase a Biotechnology based industry corridor will be developed over an area of about 200 acres from Deras Farm area, which is being alienated in favour of Science & Technology Department. My Government is contemplating to bring about a Biotechnology Policy shortly in order to attract Investors / Entrepreneurs to set up Biotech Industry in the State.

19. My Government gives priority to providing potable drinking water and sanitation facility to the rural people of Orissa. In total 2,55,766 hand pump tube wells, 8294 sanitary wells and 1286 Piped Water Supply projects have been installed. During 2007-08, 6042 hand pump tube wells, 340 sanitary wells and 160 piped water supply projects have been completed till December, 2007. Target has been fixed to provide potable drinking water in 1544 primary schools and high schools by installation of spot sources during 2007-08 and till the end of December, 2007, 600 spot sources have been completed. With community participation, 1125 projects have been completed under Swajaldhara Scheme.

My Government has taken up Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) in all 30 districts of the State with an objective to provide sanitation facilities in all rural households, all schools and Anganwadi Centres.

20. Rural connectivity is a key component for development of rural areas of the State. My Government is giving utmost importance to spread the rural connectivity to every village. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 6636.24 Km of all weather roads had been constructed till March, 2007, providing connectivity to 2604 unconnected habitations. It was targeted to construct another 3124 Km of road by March, 2008 out of which 1142.887 Km of road has already been constructed. Thus, till now connectivity has been provided to a total number of 3603 habitations. It is proposed to construct another 3500 Km of road under PMGSY during 2008-09.

21. There has been a necessity for rapid infrastructure development in the State in order to provide good road network for facilitating industrial as well as socio-economic development. In order to achieve this objective, my Government has been dovetailing funds from NABARD under the RIDF Schemes, from Government of India under the Economic Importance Scheme, Central Road Fund, Additional Central Assistance and Special Central Assistance etc, as well as State's own resources.

Considering the importance of providing good road network in the extremist prone areas, my Government has undertaken a mega project for construction of South – North Corridor connecting Motu – Malkangiri to Jashipur – Rairangpur (Part of Vijaywada – Ranchi Corridor) which is passing through tribal and extremist prone areas for a total length of 1219 Kms with a project cost of Rs.1219 crore. The funds for this project will be met out of different schemes of Government of India and from the State's own resources. In the first phase a stretch of 107 Km of road from Malkangiri to Jeypore is being taken up at a cost of Rs. 120 crore. The State Government has also prepared a multi action road infrastructure development action plan with investment of Rs.1431 crore under Orissa State Road Project with World Bank assistance amounting to Rs.953 crore.

22. Construction of mega port of international standard at Dhamara has now commenced. Gopalpur is going to be an all-weather port for which work has already started. Several port developers have also shown interest in putting up all-weather port at Subarnarekha mouth in Balasore and Devi mouth at Astaranga. With the development of these ports the Orissa's coastline will be a major hub of international trade.

23. Orissa is the first State to undertake power sector reforms. Despite initial problems, the power sector reforms have now started showing positive results. State Government utilities in the power sector are no more dependent on budgetary support from the Government. The electricity tariff in Orissa is one of the lowest in the country. There has been no hike in consumer tariff since 2001. The State continues to be power surplus and there is no power cut in the State. Gridco has been able to earn Rs.1342 crores in 2006-07 by sale of surplus power. During the current financial year it has earned Rs.1010 crores by December, 2007.

Demand for electricity is increasing rapidly in the State in view of massive industrialization and rural electrification. In order to meet the increasing demand and continue to be a power surplus state, the my Government is giving emphasis on enhancing generating capacity in the State. 13 independent power Producing Companies have signed MOUs with Government of Orissa to produce more than 16,000 MW of power. An Ultra Mega Power Plant of 4000 MW capacity is also proposed to be set up in the State. Two State PSUs namely Orissa Mining Corporation and Orissa Hydro Power Corporation have formed joint venture to set up a 2000 MW power plant in two phases.

Rural electrification has been given a new thrust with implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) and Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana. RGGVY is being implemented presently in 4 districts of the State namely Angul, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati. Remaining 26 districts will be covered under RGGVY on availability of funds from Government of India. In order to ensure “electricity for all”, my Government has launched its own scheme Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana to electrify habitations having less than 100 population, which are not included under RGGVY. Funds at the rate of Rs. 50 lakhs per Block has been made available to the Collectors for implementation of Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana.

24. My Government is giving priority to universalisation of Elementary Education with due emphasis on quality. Through Orissa Child Census programme, all the children of the State between age group of 6 to 14 have been tracked individually. Special steps have been taken for their enrollment in schools. Consequently, the drop out rate has been reduced from 18.49% to 10.53%. During the current academic year free text books have been provided to 59,70,614 students in primary school level up to Class-VIII and free school uniform to 22,90,723 girl students have been distributed through village Education Committee. The Career Advancement Policy for

Sikhya Sahayaks has been revised. Now the Sikhya Sahayaks will be eligible for regular primary school teacher in 6 years of satisfactory engagement instead of 9 years. Their remuneration has also been enhanced from Rs. 2000/- per month to Rs.3,000/- per month. 114 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) and 3052 Model Clusters Schools have been set up for the better education of girl students in 114 educationally backward Blocks. My Government have taken steps for the improvement of education of S.T. children. Bi-lingual primers have been developed in seven Tribal languages for the benefit of our tribal children. 1,02,550 Children with Special Needs (CWSN) have been identified, out of whom 90,898 children have been enrolled in schools and they have also been provided with necessary Aids and Appliances. Biju Patnaik Computer Aided Education Programme (BICEP) has been implemented in 600 Primary and Upper Primary Schools covering 24 districts of the State, which is to be further up-scaled during 2007-08.

This year Government has provided 100% grants to 100 Girls High Schools and Block Grant to 169 High Schools. It has also been decided to upgrade at least one Upper Primary (M.E) School of 1,047 High School-less G.Ps to Class-VIII under SSA from coming academic year.

25. Quality of education is of prime importance at all levels and my Government has also been taking various positive steps to improve the quality of higher education in the State. Universities such as Law University, Vedanta University and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar University are in the process of being established in the State. With sincere efforts of the State Government, National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) has been set up in the State by the Government of India and the same has started functioning from the academic session 2007-08.

26. Education is the most important input for the socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes & Scheduled Castes people. Hence my Government in ST & SC Development Department attaches due importance to improve the educational status of these communities. In order to promote ST girls education and reduce dropouts of girls, 1000 new hostels have been opened by my Government with enrolment of more than one lakh boarders. Besides 52 new residential girls hostels are proposed to be opened during the next academic session 2008-09. Pre-Matric Scholarship for SC & ST boys and girls boarders has been enhanced with effect from 1.4.07 from Rs.300/- to Rs.400/- and from Rs.325/- and Rs.425/- respectively. Special coaching facilities for the students of

Class-IXth and Xth of all the High Schools under ST & SC Development Department have been made with a view to achieving better results. Bicycles are going to be provided to tribal girls pursuing studies in class-IX to XII in TSP areas and to those who are studying in classes XI & XII in Non-TSP areas.

It is a well-known fact that though poverty leads to illiteracy, literacy and education drive away poverty.

The International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Department for International Development (DFID) and United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) assisted Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Project (OTELP) is being implemented in 19 Backward Blocks in 4 districts of the State at present. It is a sustained grass root level intervention, for the development of tribal population in the Southern tribal belt of Orissa.

Orissa Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Development Finance Cooperative Corporation implements various income generating schemes for the benefits of the poor SCs & STs and Scavengers of the State. During the year 2007-08 till end of December 2007, this Corporation has financed 3720 nos. of SCs, 1395 nos. of STs under BPL category and 220 nos. of Scavengers



through Banks under Credit linked Income Generating Schemes.

27. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is being implemented in 24 districts of the State and with the extension of the Act to the remaining six districts, all the 30 districts of the State will be covered under this scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April'08. So far more than 37 lakh rural households have registered themselves in these 24 districts and are in possession of Job Cards. By the end of December, 2007, around 8 Lakh households had demanded work and all of them have been provided with wage-employment as stipulated in the Act and the Scheme.

My Government is actively promoting digging of 'Farm Ponds' in private land of Below Poverty Line (BPL) category households under NREGS, which has been appreciated by the rural people of rain-fed areas. These 'Farm Ponds' not only help in soil and water conservation; but also provide life-saving irrigation during dry spells of Monsoon season.

As far as 'Transparency' in implementation of NREGS is concerned, Orissa has emerged as the Flagship State by making all data and information relating to NREGS available in the Internet.

My Government is taking active steps to form the transparency safeguards with increased awareness to ensure that the implementation is honest, transparent and accountable and ensure that the fruits of all poverty alleviation and developmental programmes reach every eligible beneficiary.

Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF), which is a Centrally Funded Scheme aiming at reducing regional disparity covers 19 districts of the State. In order to address the developmental needs of those 11 districts of the State, which are not covered under BRGF, my Government has started one of its own schemes under State Plan from 2006-07 which is known as 'Gopabandhu Gramin Yojana' (GGY). Each district gets Rs.10 crores annually under GGY for development of sectors like 'Bijli, Sadak & Pani'.

Strengthening of grass-root administration and capacity building of PRI elected representatives and functionaries are of vital importance for successful implementation of various rural development and anti-poverty programmes. My Government has taken a number of steps in this direction. For successful implementation of NREGS, a Gram Rozgar Sevak has been appointed in every Gram Panchayat, apart from providing technical

support staff at the Block level. Recently my Government has also decided to engage two 'Gaon Sathis' in every revenue village who will help in smooth execution of NREGS work.

My Government has also decided to launch a new scheme called " Mo Kudia" to cover those beneficiaries who are in the waiting list for Indira Awas Yojna but are likely to be denied the benefit due to a possible revision of the BPL list.

28. My Government is fully concerned about the health care needs of the people of Orissa. Adequate provision has been made to extend the facilities of qualitative, preventive and curative health care for the people of the State. Steps have also been taken to strengthen health care for the needy and backward class people by providing mobile Health Units in specified backward areas. As many as 90 Mobile Health Units are presently working in 8 KBK districts.

In order to meet the shortage of doctors, steps have been taken to increase seats in Medical Colleges under MBBS Course as well as BDS Course. Besides, Government have also issued NOC in favour of 17 Organizations for establishment of Medical and Dental Colleges in the private sector.

While death on account of Malaria has been showing a declining trend, further anti-malarial measures have been intensified. My Government is also committed to take all possible steps to prevent occurrence of water borne diseases and epidemics like cholera etc.

National AIDS Control Programme is also being implemented effectively to reduce the spread of HIV in the State.

National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in Orissa on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, 2005 in order to provide effective health care to the rural mass. An innovative scheme named Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) works under NRHM to provide first point health contact in the villages. At present 34231 numbers of ASHA have already been trained in all our 30 districts. Similarly, the programme like village Health Plan Janani Surakhya Yojana, AYUSH, Immunization etc. are being implemented through NRHM to provide effective health services to the people of rural areas.

Orissa is also one of the leading States in the country to launch telemedicine technology with an aim to provide telehealth care for patients requiring more advanced consultation.

29. 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.

My Government's intervention in paddy procurement has helped in preventing distress sale of paddy and in providing remunerative price of paddy to the farmers. Government has fixed a target of 25 lakh M.T. in terms of rice for the Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08. Out of this, paddy equivalent to at least 23 Lakh MT rice is targeted to be procured by government agencies directly from the farmers so that they will get full benefit of price support operations. Women Self Help groups and Pani Panchayats have been associated with paddy procurement operations to strengthen these institutions.

One State Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum and 31 District consumer Disputes Redressal Forums are functioning in the State. Infrastructure of all consumer Forums is being strengthened to make these more effective.

30. In order to provide social security benefits to large number of workers in the unorganized sector, my Government has operationalised the Building and other

Construction Workers Welfare Scheme. Under this scheme, social security benefits like safety, health, education, family pension, group insurance, etc. would be available to the workers in this sector. In order to control and regulate the engagement of child labours in hazardous occupations, a District Level Task Force has been constituted in each district under the Chairmanship of the Collector. These Task Forces are taking up intensive raids and inspections for identification of Child Labour and their rescue and rehabilitation. My Government is also going to operationalize the centrally sponsored scheme "Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana with effect from 1.4. 2008.

31. Financial Assistance from Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) is being provided to indigent applicants for their treatment of major ailments. Besides, financial assistance is also being provided to persons affected by major mishaps, extremist violence and disasters of devastating nature. CMRF guidelines have been recently revised in order to reach out to the needy and suffering people in the nook and corner of the State.

32. In order to bring Revenue Administration closer to people and to ensure better services as a part of e-governance initiative, my Government have computerized the text of land records in various Tehsils of the State. The

citizens can access these records through Tehsil Computer Centers on demand.

My Government has taken steps for distribution of Land Pass Books to all the individual land holding families in the state. The Land Pass Book can be used as an authoritative document for the purpose like ascertaining caste, income, residence, legal heir and BPL status, etc. By the end of November'2007 Land Pass Books numbering 13,95,011 have been distributed.

My Government is committed to provide house sites to the extent of 4 decimals to all the identified 2,49,334 rural homesteadless families in the state within a period of three years i.e. from 2005-06 to 2007-08. By the end of October, 2007, 1,64,428 landless families have been provided with house-sites under this programme.

The State Government have launched a campaign named "MO JAMI MO DIHA" to protect the land rights of the poor. At the first phase of the campaign, "MO JAMI MO DIHA' melas have already been organized in all the Tehsils of the State during September and October, 2007.

My Government has formulated a Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy, which is being considered as one of the best in the country. The policy addresses development

induced voluntary displacement and provides an effective dialogue between the Project Affected families and the Project Authorities for proper implementation of the rehabilitation and resettlement plan within a specified time frame. The Policy further provides a mechanism for its implementation and monitoring as also a grievance redressal and dispute resolution mechanism while ensuring environmental sustainability through participatory process.

33. There was a communal situation that erupted in Kandhamal District towards the end of December, 2007. This, however has been carefully and sensitively handled by taking adequate steps by the administration for which it could be controlled within 4 days. Normalcy in Kandhamal District has been restored with the intervention of the administration by constituting Peace Committees in sensitive areas of the District and continuously interacting with them.

In order to control crime in the twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, the Orissa Urban Police Act, 2003 has been operationalized in these twin cities with effect from 1.1.2008. My Government has been giving utmost importance to modernization of police force and has also taken up fortification of vulnerable establishments. In order to give proper accommodation and amenities to the



increasing number of prisoners, 15 new sub-jails, 35 additional wards, 365 septic latrines and 26 water supply system have been put in place. Fortification of 24 jails have also been taken up.

The extremists violence is much less in the State compared to the neighbouring states. My Government is taking steps to track the extremists through continuous checks and combing operations. The surrender policy announced by my Government has started showing results as several hard-core Maoists have surrendered before the administration.

34. Urban population in the State has witnessed a growth rate of about 30% in the last decade. The increasing demand for better civic amenities and infrastructure facilities in the urban area have posed a challenge for the Government. My Government is committed to meeting this challenge and is determined to provide better services to the people.

During the year 2007-2008, 148 number of projects have been taken up for improvement / augmentation / extension of Urban water supply in different Urban Local Bodies. 11 water supply projects have been taken up under RLTA in KBK region out of which, 3 projects at Bolangir, Jeypore and Nawrangpur towns have been

completed and the rest of the projects are at different stages of execution.

34 water supply projects have been initiated under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP), out of which 17 projects have been completed, 7 have been commissioned. 2 projects partially commissioned and the rest 8 projects are at different stages of execution.

Bhubaneswar and Puri have been selected by the Government of India under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The City Development Plans for both the cities have been approved. Under the Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component under JNNURM, the Integrated Sewerage Project for Bhubaneswar has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.754 crore, out of which Rs.498.91 crore would be met out of JNNURM.

Under Basic Service to Urban Poor (BSUP) Scheme, four Slum Projects for Bhubaneswar and Puri under JNNURM worth Rs.4355.58 lakh have been sanctioned which would benefit 2008 numbers of Urban Poor households.

34 Municipalities, 8 district headquarters Notified Area Councils and Cuttack Municipal Corporation have been included under Urban Infrastructure Development of Small & Medium Town (UIDSMT) Scheme. The Government of India have approved eleven projects worth Rs.14406.46 lakh for seven towns. Projects for other Municipalities and District Headquarters NACs are in the pipeline for sanction during 2007-08.

Integrated Sewerage and Drainage Project, Cuttack has been taken up with loan assistance of Rs.75744 lakh from Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

IIT, Kharagpur have submitted the Perspective Plan and Vision 2030 for the Greater Cuttack and Bhubaneswar urban complexes covering the urban area of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Choudwar, Khurda and Jatni. The Comprehensive Development Plans for Bhubaneswar and Cuttack Development Plan area are under preparation.

My Government has also taken up preparation of Comprehensive Development Plans & Master Plans for Rourkela, Sambalpur, Berhampur, Puri, Paradeep, Angul-Talcher, Kalinganagar and the industrial township of Jharsuguda.

35. My Government has evolved a policy through which manufacturing, distillation and trading in liquor are chanzalized under strict vigil of the State, which has helped in generating considerable resources simultaneously with check on trading of illicit liquor.

In order to check the illicit liquor trade, the provisions relating to the punishment for the Excise Offences have been made more stringent by amending the Bihar & Orissa Excise Act, 1915 during the year of 2006-07.

The Excise Enforcement measures have been strengthened. The District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police have been asked to keep close watch on the suspected illicit distillation centers and manufacturing and marketing of liquor. Joint raids have been conducted by Police and Excise Personnel at the district level for better enforcement activities to prevent the manufacture, supply and sale of illicit liquor in the district.

36. During the year 2007-08, My Government has established five numbers of Addl. District & Session Judge-cum-Special Judge (Vigilance) Courts one each at Cuttack, Balasore, Jeypore, Bolangir and Bhubaneswar, one Civil Judge, (Senior Division) Court at Jajpur Road and one Civil Judge (Junior Division) Court at Chandikhole.

My Government is committed to greater transparency and accountability through proper implementation of Right to Information Act.

My Government is committed to providing speedy justice to every one. In view of this in the year 2007-08, a total number of 1,01,880 cases have been disposed of through 477 number of Lok Adalats organized by the Orissa State Legal Services Authority through the District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees of the State.

In order to create legal awareness among the rural public, 483 number of Legal Awareness / Literacy camps have been organized during the year 2007-08.

37. My Government has taken keen interest in promotion of sports in the State. The State Rural Football Team became champion in All India Rural Sports Tournament at Goa in November,2007. Sravani Nanda and Renubala Mahanta, Athletes from Sports Hostel, Bhubaneswar won medals in the SAF Junior Athletic Meet held at Sri Lanka last year. The Hockey players of Orissa have also added laurels to the National Hockey in making significant contributions in the success of the National Team.

38. Orissa's rich cultural heritage is manifested in its temple art, classical form of music and dance. My Government has undertaken conservation of temples and monuments in the State out of the 12th Finance Commission Award. In order to promote the Odissi dance and music, the Culture Department has already taken a decision to organize National Odissi Festival at Bhubaneswar every year. Odissi Festival and Odissi Sandhya programmes have also been organized in cities like Chandigarh, New Delhi etc. For bringing more indigent artists under social security net, my Government have decided to increase the coverage of pension holders during the current year by 500. My Government is also contemplating to increase the pension amount from the existing Rs.500/- per month.

39. During 2007-08, afforestation activities have been taken up on 57,729 hectares of land in the State under different schemes with active participation of people. A sense of "owning the forest" has been created among the people, particularly tribal people by ensuring their active participation in Joint Forest Management Scheme of the Government. At present 10,504 Vana Samrakhyan Samities have been formed in the State who are actively involved in protection and regeneration of forests. 500 decentralized nurseries have been developed to produce

50 lakh seedlings for sale during 2007-08 through 500 selected VSS/SHG/individuals under different afforestation activities.

A strict and constant vigil has been kept on air and water pollution. State Government have constituted three appellate authorities under “Water Act”, “Air Act” and “Biomedical West Rules” to hear appeals preferred against any order made. Environment societies have been constituted in all the 30 districts under the Chairmanship of District Collectors.

40. Removal of regional disparities has also been the focus of attention for the State Government. A number of programmes have been launched to address regional disparities. Some such programmes include: (i) Revised Long Term Action Plan for the KBK districts, (ii) coverage of 19 districts under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), (iii) Biju KBK Plan for the KBK districts, (iv) Gopbandhu Grameen Yojana for districts other than those already covered under BRGF, (v) Biju Gramya Jyoti Yojana, (vi) Closing critical gaps in the development infrastructure through Western Orissa Development Council, (vii) improving the infrastructure in tribal areas under Article 275(1) of the Constitution and other Development Programmes in the Tribal Sub-Plan.

41. My Government undertook a number of fiscal correction measures including expenditure rationalization and revenue generation measures so as to improve the fiscal situation of the State during the last few years. As a result, the financial year 2005-06 ended with revenue surplus of Rs. 481.19 crore. The improved scenario of revenue surplus generation has also been sustained during the subsequent years. The State's own tax and non-tax revenue has increased substantially during the period from 2000-01 to 2006-07.

However, there is no scope for complacency. Management of debt burden has been a recurring problem for the State Government. We have the Debt GSDP (at 1999-2000 prices) ratio of 44.87% in 2006-07 as against the recommended level of 28% by 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. My Government is committed to reduce the debt burden as a result of which, the net addition to debt burden is showing a declining trend. For example, while a net loan of Rs. 3822.77 crore was incurred during 2003-04, it has been decreased to Rs. 793.06 crore in 2006-07 as per the actual figure furnished by A.G., Orissa. This is a significant achievement of my Government.

As a welfare State, My Government is committed to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the common people. But at the same time, it has to be ensured that unproductive



expenditure should be curtailed and capital expenditure should be stepped up for improvement of infrastructure. There is more fiscal space available at present for undertaking developmental and welfare activities resulting in higher plan outlay.

I have taken this opportunity of outlining the policies and programmes of my Government in important areas of activity. My Government has been striving hard to implement all the programmes and fulfill the promises it had made for the welfare of the people of the State and it will pursue these policies relentlessly. Our ultimate goal is to build a just, democratic and secular society and a vibrant economy free from wants, free from strife and free from all narrow and partisan feelings. I have no doubt that the labours of this August House would be directed towards that end.

In the end let me wish you a fruitful Budget Session with full debates and participatory completion of business of the Session. Let Orissa State Legislative Assembly be a model of vibrant democracy for other legislatures to follow.

I now leave you to your deliberations and wish you all success.

Jai Hind.

