

**Mr Speaker and Hon'ble Members,**

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming you all to the 16<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, 2009.

2. The August House has expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of late Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Ex-Prime Minister of India, Chintamani Jena, Ex-Deputy Speaker, Adwait Prasad Singh, Ex-Minister, Sudhansu Malini Ray, Ex-Member, Arjun Patra, Ex-Member, Jagadish Jani, Ex-Member, Jayakrushna Mohanty, Ex-Member, Paramananda Mohanty, Ex-Member, Dumba Sawora, Ex-Member, Christopher Ekka, Ex-Member and Kunduru Kushal, Ex-Member of this House. The House has also expressed its deep condolence on the death of 5 Jawans of Indian Army, 80 numbers of Police Personnel belonging to CRPF, State Police, Andhra Pradesh Police and a Launch Driver, who laid down their lives for the cause of the Nation. I would request you to join me in paying homage to late R. Venkataraman, Ex-President of India and late Ashok Das, Ex-Leader of Opposition of this House who are no more with us. The House may convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. We will always remember their selfless service and their dedication to the cause of the nation and the State.

3. My Government has been striving that Orissa should continue to have sustainable, broad-based and inclusive higher economic growth, accelerated overall development of the people of Orissa and faster poverty reduction. In order to achieve these objectives, the State Government has been allocating higher plan resources year after year. During the first year of 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan that is 2007-08, the Annual Plan size was Rs.5,520 crore which was about 53% higher than the Annual Plan size for the year 2006-07, the last year of 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. During the current year that is 2008-09, the approved outlay for Annual Plan: 2008-09 is Rs.7,500 crore. The State Government proposes a still higher Plan Allocation for

the year 2009-10 which is Rs.9,500 crore. It is worth mentioning that the plan size has increased from Rs.2,500 crore to Rs.9,500 crore in the last five years of this Government. The pace of utilization of plan funds has also been improving. An expenditure of Rs.2,938.48 crore has been already incurred during the current year up to November 2008.

4. The core development strategies include:

- Scaling up investment in, and greater attention to, Agriculture and allied sector so that the welfare of farmers and other rural communities is enhanced and their life quality improves.
- Increasing employment, income generating and livelihood opportunities.
- Strengthening social security net so that education, health, food security and welfare programmes for women and children, and disabled people are given due priority.
- Reduction of regional, social and gender disparities. The needs of backward regions such as KBK areas and Western Orissa; of marginalized communities including ST, SC and Minorities; and of women and children need be addressed expeditiously.
- Greater focus on development of productive infrastructure so that rural connectivity and electrification are substantially improved and farmers are assured of irrigation. Bijli, Sadak and Pani are receiving high priority of the State Government.
- Attracting substantial private investment in the State so that economy is expeditiously diversified and more employment opportunities for all, and particularly for youth, are created.

5. Irrigation is a critical input for boosting agricultural production and thus farmers' incomes. My Government has accorded a very high priority to increase substantially irrigation potential and observed the year 2008 as the Year of Irrigation. An additional irrigation potential of 62,000 ha has been added during

the Year of Irrigation. My Government is pursuing with the Government of Jharkhand to complete the link canal from Galudihi Barrage to our border so that irrigation can be provided from the system in the ensuing kharif season. The State aims at providing assured irrigation to at least 35% of cultivable and irrigable area in each block during the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan period. To meet this challenging task, about 20% of total Annual Plan resources are being allocated for completing ongoing irrigation projects and taking up new projects. Out of 198 blocks where irrigation is less than 35% of cultivable area, 23 have already been covered with 35% irrigation facilities up to December 2008. The State Government has recently launched Orissa Community Tank Management Project with the World Bank support to renovate 900 Tank based Minor Irrigation Projects and to add and stabilize 120,000 ha. irrigation potential. In addition, resources under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and RIDF have been substantially augmented during recent years. Further support of Asian Development Bank has been taken to modernize 6 major irrigation projects, 9 medium irrigation projects and 1,400 minor lift irrigation projects in Brahamani-Baitrani, Budhabalanga-Subernarekha and Mahanadi Delta basins.

6. Massive efforts have also been made to undertake Command Area Development Programmes with a view to utilizing the created irrigation potential, and flood control measures in the coastal and other parts of Orissa. By the end of December 2008, field channels have been created or renovated over an area of 4.62 lakh ha; filed drains have been improved over an area of 1.39 lakh ha; and a developed command area of 11.75 lakh ha has been handed over to 15,974 Pani Panchayats for operations and maintenance of the distribution systems. During the current year, my Government provided an outlay of Rs.185 crore to immediately restore flood damaged infrastructure.

7. In order to encourage private investment in irrigation sector, the State Government has increased subsidy for private lift irrigation points to 50%. Similarly, subsidy for promoting drip irrigation and micro irrigation has been

recently increased to 70%. During the current year, 9,510 private lift irrigation points have been set up by December 2008 under "Jalnidhi" Programme and an additional 19,660 ha area has been brought under assured irrigation. About 650 ha area has been brought under drip irrigation.

8. In addition, with a view to improving soil moisture regime in drier pockets of the State, more than 3,300 micro watersheds with treatable area of more than 15.33 lakh ha. are being treated under various schemes including Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, Western Orissa Livelihood Project, Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Project, Revised Long Term Action Plan, National Watershed Development Project in Rain-fed Areas and River Valley Projects.

9. The State Government has also given a very high priority to Agriculture and allied sectors. Resource outlays of these sectors are being increased each year. This has also enabled the State Government to avail Central Grants under Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojana. My Government has taken a number of measures to develop agriculture and allied sectors. A new State Agriculture Policy, 2008 has been implemented with a view to bringing a shift from subsistence agriculture to commercially viable and economically rewarding agriculture and thus improving economic well being of farmers and farm dependent communities. Efforts have been taken to improve Seed Replacement Ratio (SRR) which, for paddy, has improved from 6.88% in 2006-07 to 12.04% in 2007-08. The State is also implementing Seed Village scheme. More than 4.00 lakh quintals of certified seeds have been sold at a subsidized rates during 2008-09. This is proposed to be increased at least by 50% during the next year. Soil testing and soil health cards are being promoted in different districts so that farmers are advised to raise more appropriate crops. Soil Testing Labs are being established at Nuapada, Keonjhar, Angul, Bargarh, Rayagada and Sonapur. 85,000 Soil Test Cards have been issued to farmers in different districts up to December during the current year. The State achieved a record foodgrain production of 92.5 lakh MT during 2007-08.

**10.** The State Agriculture Policy 2008 also aims at encouraging farm mechanization, horticulture, organic farming and certification processes with new incentives for improving marketing and remunerative agricultural commodity prices. Agricultural research and education are also receiving due attention. A new College of Horticulture has started functioning at Chiplima from the current academic year. Another new College of Agriculture will start functioning at Bhawanipatna from the academic session of 2009-10. A Horticulture Training Institute and a Mega Nursery are being set up in Kandhamal district. National Horticulture Mission is under implementation in 24 districts. In the remaining six districts the State Government has been extending similar support to the farmers from its own resources. Three Modern Terminal Market Complexes are proposed to be established in the State to address the problem of marketing of fruits and vegetables.

**11.** The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is being implemented in the State to provide crop insurance coverage and financial support to farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops due to natural calamities. In order to strengthen Co-operative Banks, the State Government is also implementing the Revival Package recommended by Vaidyanathan Committee. For this purpose, the Orissa Co-operative Act has been amended in line with the provisions of MOU signed by the State Government with Government of India and NABARD. Realizing the importance of these programmes for farmers and other rural communities, the State Government has been adequately funding all the aforesaid programmes. My Government has provided interest assistance to the farmers from Rabi 2008-09 as a result of which agricultural credit is being made available at 5% per annum.

**12.** The Government has also taken steps to establish Livestock Aid Centres at GP level in a phased manner to make primary veterinary aid and other services accessible. Educated unemployed youth are given appropriate training to provide animal husbandry related services to farmers at their door steps. This will also

help create self employment opportunities for trained persons. Fishery sector is also receiving attention of Government so that fish production and incomes of fishermen and others depending on fishing are suitably increased. A Group Accident Insurance Scheme for fishermen is also under implementation to provide insurance coverage to fishermen. For development of inland fisheries and to achieve self-sufficiency in such fish production, water areas are being developed and fish farmers and entrepreneurs are being trained through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDA).

**13.** Removal of regional disparities has been one of the important development strategies adopted by the State Government. Some key initiatives that have been taken to address severe problems of underdevelopment and regional disparities Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP), (ii) Biju KBK Plan, (iii) Western Orissa Development Council, (iv) Gopbandhu Grameen Yojana, and (v) Backward Regions Grants Fund (BRGF). The RLTAP includes a special plan for Rs.130 crore funded each year out of special central assistance. During the current year, Rs.80.63 crore has been already utilized up to December 2008. In order to augment flow of funds to, and maintain development momentum of, the KBK districts, the State Government has launched the Biju KBK Plan from the year 2006-07. During the current year, an allocation of Rs.120 crore has been provided to different KBK districts. Bijli, Sadak and Pani schemes are given priority under this Plan. In order to expedite development of the KBK districts and in consultation with Planning Commission, my Government has developed an Eight Year Perspective Plan for KBK districts from the year 2009-10 to 2016-17 for a projected outlay of Rs.4,550 crore. The Perspective Plan is awaiting approval of Planning Commission.

**14.** With a view to reducing regional imbalance and accelerating the pace of development in Western Orissa, the Western Orissa Development Council has been constituted covering more than 10 districts in accordance with the Western Orissa Development Council Act, 2000. From the year 2008-09, the Government has doubled grants-in-aid to WODC from Rs.50 crore a year to Rs.100 crore a year.

**15.** The State Government is also implementing a Centrally funded scheme: BRGF programme in 19 districts with a projected annual outlay of Rs.324 crore a year. In the remaining 11 districts, the State Government has launched a State funded scheme: Gopbandhu Grameen Yojana, the annual allocation for which has been increased from Rs.110 crore to Rs.165 crore a year from 2008-09.

**16.** My Government has also been making concerted efforts to accelerate all round development of ST, SC and minority communities so that they may be brought to mainstream. The broad strategies for promotion of welfare of ST, SC and minorities include: (i) raising literacy levels of these communities and improving their socio-economic conditions by way of increasing their access to improved health, housing and other public services, (ii) increasing scholarship amount to Rs.500 per month for boys and Rs.530 per month for girl students, (iii) providing more livelihood opportunities and reducing poverty, (iv) securing rights of ST and SC over forests and land, (v) improving critical infrastructure in Scheduled Areas and (vi) protecting their civil rights. Recently, my Government has taken a number of initiatives such as: establishment of 1003 Girls hostels, opening of 52 new residential girls high schools and Eklavya Model Schools, provision of cycles to ST and SC girls, upgradation of 109 Ashram Schools, and 142 Sevashrams. More than one lakh ST and SC girls are expected to benefit from these programmes. These measures shall not only improve literacy and employability of ST and SC youth, but will also empower them to face the challenges of life more boldly. My Government is also implementing Orissa Tribal Empowerment & Livelihood Programme, Wadi Programme and conferment of traditional forest rights in favour of tribal communities. The Provisions of Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is also being implemented in Scheduled Areas. Special development packages are being implemented in several tribal districts. WADI programme is under progress in G. Udayagiri and Tikabali Blocks for holistic developments and promotion of livelihood through a

combination of core intervention in horticulture, forestry and agricultural development, in which STs o BPL category are encouraged to develop WADIs by planting Mango, Litichi, Guava and Kagzilime etc.

**17.** Mission Shakti has also been another flagship programme of my Government, that is aimed at empowering women and improving their socio-economic conditions. 3.67 lakh Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) have been formed involving about 44.43 lakh women in 44,171 villages. 3.52 lakh WSHG have been credit linked with bank loans of more than Rs.976 crore and are being encouraged to take up pisciculture, horticulture, other livelihood activities and to manage public services such as public distribution scheme and mid-day-meal programme. Marketing support through ORMAS is being given by way of organizing Gramshree and Pallishree Melas.

**18.** The Government has also been making sustained efforts to increase livelihoods and income generating opportunities for the people of Orissa. Special packages have been announced for farmers, weavers and craftsmen. Some important livelihood programmes include Jeebika, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP), Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme, Western Orissa Livelihoods Project, TRIPTI, SGSY and SGRY. Handloom sector, sericulture and handicrafts sector have also received the attention of my Government. A number of measures have already been implemented to strengthen these sectors and to improve economic conditions and skills of those who are engaged in these sectors.

**19.** My Government is conscious of the rich traditions of handloom fabrics in the State and accordingly initiated programmes for comprehensive development of the sector. The leading and famous Sambalpuri Bastralaya Handloom Cooperative Society Ltd. Is being assisted by my Government with Rs.10.00 crore for its restructuring and revival, so that livelihood of thousands of weavers is protected. During the current year, my Government has allotted Rs.2.5 crore for construction



of 1000 work sheds of weavers. Further to make available quality raw-materials to the weavers of 5 clusters, a sum of Rs.35.00 lakh has been provided over and above Rs.15.00 lakh granted by Govt. of India. Under the Special Package for the weavers, care has been taken to provide I-Cards to all weavers of the state, impart skill up-gradation training to 2000 weavers every year and bring in integrated development of Nuapatna Handloom Cluster. For diversification of products, Rs.1.5 crore has been provided for opening of 5 satellite training centres of Apparel Training and Design Centre. (ATDC) in the State.

Sericulture provides raw materials for high value silk weaving by our weavers. Therefore the State Government has started one micro project at Chandragiri in Gajapati district for increasing mulberry cultivation. The Apex organization, SERIFED is being suitably restructured and strengthened with marketing support and share capital assistance for eventual support to the tribal silk rearers.

**20.** The State Government has also accorded high priority on employment generation and formulated the "State Employment Policy, 2005". A High Power Employment Mission and Orissa State Employment Mission Society have been established. During 2008-09, 45,400 candidates participated in Atma Nijukti Paramarsha Melas organized at Block level while another 1,49,774 differently abled persons have participated in special Melas organized for the purpose. During 2008-09, self and associated wage employment has been provided for 2,78,562 unemployed youth through Commercial Bank financing and for 2,51,318 unemployed youth through various Government sponsored schemes by the end of December 2008. The State Government has also launched a massive Programme for improving "computer literacy" and "soft skills" for 100,000 youth during the year 2008-09 through intensive training with a view to enhancing their employability. These efforts shall also continue during the year 2009-10. Five satellite training centres of Apparel Training and Design Centre are being opened in the State.

21. Apart from the National Old-age Pension scheme, the State Government has implemented Madhu Babu Pension Yojana from 1.1.08. Old men and women aged 60 years and above, widows under BPL category, Leprosy patients, physically handicapped and mentally retarded persons above five years, AIDS patients and their widows are benefited under this scheme. In order to provide a large number of social security benefits to the workers in the unorganised sector, my Government has operationalised the Building & other Construction Workers' Welfare Board. This would enable provision of Safety, Health, Education, Family Pension, Group Insurance etc. and other social security benefits to such workers in the unorganized sector. Work for registration of workers in this sector has already started.

The 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' is being implemented in the State, which will cover the B.P.L workers and their families in the unorganized sector for treatment of major diseases involving hospitalization and surgery. 12 districts have been covered under the scheme by now.

24 Districts of the State were now covered under National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of Child Labour. My Government has taken steps for inclusion of the remaining six districts of the State under NCLP Scheme. Besides, the Government is working towards convergence of various other related schemes for providing benefits to the families of Child Labour. In order to control and regulate the engagement of Child Labourers in hazardous occupations, a District Level Task Force has been constituted in each District for identification of Child Labour and their rescue and rehabilitation.

The implementation of Supplementary Nutrition Programmes through 41,697 Anganwadi Centres has been further strengthened to improve nutritional status of children in 0-6 year age group, pregnant and lactating mothers. It has been further decided to open 19,221 more Anganwadi Centres.

A new scheme is going to be implemented for coverage of mal-nourished children (Grade-3 and Grade-4) according to which each child will be given an

assistance of Rs.500/- per month for nutritional and medical support. This assistance will be provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

**22.** Other labour welfare measures include: (i) Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana for BPL workers and their families in the unorganized sector for treatment of major diseases involving hospitalization and surgery, (ii) Operationalisation of Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Board to address issues pertaining to safety, health, education, family pension and group insurance of workers in the unorganized sector, and (iii) National Child Labour Project that is under implementation in 24 districts.

**23.** 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. A total of 12,64,500 poorest of the poor beneficiaries covered under Antodaya Anna Yojana are being supplied with 35 kg. of rice per month @ Rs.2.00 per Kg. The BPL families of the State & APL families in KBK district are being given 25 Kg. of rice at the same rate. Under Annapurna Scheme, 64,800 senior citizens who, though eligible, have not been covered under Old Age Pension Scheme are being provided 10 Kgs of rice per beneficiary per month free of cost.

Advisory Committees have been constituted at the District / Block / TLAC/RLAC for smooth functioning of PDS. As a measure of women empowerment WSHGs are being given priority for issue of Retailership / Subwholesalership licenses for distribution of PDS. To prevent distress sale of paddy and for providing remunerative price of paddy to the farmers, my Government has fixed a target of 31 lakh MT in terms of rice for the Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09 for procurement through government agencies, directly from the farmers. Women Self Help Groups and Pani Panchayats have been associated with paddy procurement operations in order to strengthen these institutions.

**24.** My Government is fully committed to devolution of power to 3-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions as mandated in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the

Constitution. Provisions of Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) have been implemented in the matters of strengthening Palli Sabhas and Gram Sabhas, reservation for Scheduled Tribes in the PRI structure, conferring land rights to traditional forest dwellers in possession of forest lands etc. The Government has recently enhanced the honorarium, sitting fees and daily allowance of PRI representatives so that they can perform their duty in a much better manner. Adequate funds and functions have been devolved to 3-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions as per the recommendation of the 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission and State Finance Commission. My Government has also successfully implemented the flagship programmes of Govt. of India such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF). I am glad to observe that two districts of our State namely Ganjmur and Mayurbhanj have been ranked among the best 20 in the entire country. All the 30 districts of the State are now covered under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme whereas 19 districts are covered under Backward Region Grant Fund. For the 11 districts not covered by Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme, my Government has launched a new scheme under the State Plan titled "Gopabandhu Gramin Yojana" in 2007-08 which is being implemented successfully. Responding to the devastating flood of September, 2008 the Budgetary Provision under Gopabandhu Gramin Yojana has been augmented by Rs.185 crores for restoration of flood damaged Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti roads and buildings. The massive restoration work taken up this time has earned appreciation from all quarters for its quick and effective execution. Further, to supplement the Centrally Sponsored Indira Awas Yojana, my Government has launched an innovative scheme under State Plan titled "Mo Kudia" from this financial year with a budgetary Provisions of Rs.100 crores for providing pucca dwelling units to needy beneficiaries of Kandhamal, Gajapati and KBK districts of the State. Moreover, to improve the financial condition of rural households and to give a fillip to the Self Help Group movement under "Mission Shakti", the State Govt. is going to implement a very innovative rural livelihood project titled "Targetted Rural Initiatives for Poverty Termination and Infrastructure (TRIPTI)" in

38 backward blocks of 10 districts of the State with World Bank Assistance from the current financial year.

25. A number of steps have been taken to universalize elementary education and to improve access of children from weaker sections to secondary and higher education. In this regard, important initiatives include: (1) Orissa Child Census Programme that has helped reduce drop out rates in schools from 10.53% to 7.79%, (2) free supply of text books to 58,82,642 students at elementary level including class-VIII, (3) free uniform to 28,05,037 girl students, (4) upgradation of 1,087 Upper Primary Schools to Class-VIII level under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in such Gram Panchayats that do not have High Schools, (5) opening of 157 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya and 3,054 Model Cluster Schools for quality education of girls in educationally backward blocks, (6) providing computer literacy and computer aided education in 1,500 Upper Primary Schools spread over 24 districts, of which 600 schools have been already covered from 2004 onward and 900 schools are expected to be covered during the current year.

26. In order to promote sports and games among youth, a new scheme "*Panchayat Yuba Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan*" has been launched from the current year. Resource allocations for promoting various sports and games and improving sports infrastructure including Sports Hostels for Girls and Boys, Kalinga Stadium and other stadia have also been significantly enhanced from the current year. Play fields are also being developed in all districts.

27. The access to, and quality of, higher education is also being constantly improved. Because of untiring efforts of my Government, a National Institute of Science, Education and Research (NISER), one IIT, one more IIIT, two new Engineering Colleges: one at Berhampur and the other at Bhawanipatna, one Agriculture College at Bhawanipatna and 5 more Universities are being established in the State. 231 Government Vocational Junior Colleges are being strengthened. Moreover, private sector is being encouraged to establish more engineering,

management and medical colleges in the State. In order to enable poor meritorious students to pursue higher technical education including BE / B Tech / MCA / MBA / MBBS, liberal scholarship assistance is being provided. All these measures are aimed at improving employability of our educated youth who need to have high order of skills to compete at national and international levels. Both Government and non-Government Aided Colleges are being given computers to facilitate computer literacy and e-education.

**28.** The Government is well aware that better health of its people is a necessity to reduce morbidity and increase their overall welfare. Therefore, several initiatives have been taken to improve health infrastructure, to enhance people's access to health services and to strengthen health education, research and training. National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is being implemented in all 30 districts with a view to improving health care services to the rural masses. Reproductive & Child Health Programme aims at reducing infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rates. In addition, 34,252 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) have been engaged under NRHM to encourage institutional delivery and implement various schemes under NRHM. Other initiatives include: Village Health Plan, Janani Surakhya Yojana, AYUSH, and Immunisation. The State Government also plans to create additional 50 PHCs during the year 2009-10. In order to increase supply of doctors, MBBS and BDS seats in three Government Medical Colleges have been increased to 150 and 50 respectively. Private entrepreneurs are also being encouraged to set up 17 Medical and Dental Colleges in the State. To fill vacancies of doctors, the Government has authorized CDMO to engage doctors on contract basis. Retired doctors up to the age of 68 years have been permitted to be engaged on contract basis. Moreover, pay scales and service conditions of doctors have been considerably improved to attract more doctors to join government service.

**29.** The Government has also accorded a very high priority to provide potable drinking water and sanitation facilities in rural areas. Out of targeted 12,285 hand pump tube wells, 1,000 sanitary wells and 2,000 piped water supply projects for the year 2008-09, 5,847 tube wells, 839 piped water supply projects and 334 sanitary wells have been already completed covering 2,689 rural habitations and 147 schools. Moreover, Total Sanitation Campaign is under implementation in all 30 districts. Out of targeted 70.56 lakh individual household latrines (IHL) to be completed up to the year 2011-12, 19.26 lakh IHL, 35,081 school toilets and 11,370 Anganwadi Centre toilets have been completed up to December 2008. In 2008-09, 94 Gram Panchayats were awarded Nirmal Gram Puskarak for achieving total sanitation and open defecation-free environment.

**30.** The Government has also taken several measures to improve urban water supply and sewerage systems in different Urban Local Bodies. 218 schemes including 12 in the KBK districts were taken up in 2008-09. Out of 34 schemes under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, 23 schemes have already been completed. Bhubaneswar and Puri have been selected for implementation of Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). A Rs.754 crore Sewerage Project has been sanctioned for Bhubaneswar. Similarly, a Water Supply Project of Rs.166.90 crore has been sanctioned for Puri. Further, to provide basic services to the urban poor, 5 slum projects have been sanctioned for Bhubaneswar and Puri at a cost of Rs.61.22 crore. This initiative is expected to benefit 2,316 urban poor households. In addition, development works have been initiated in 35 municipalities, 6 NACs, Cuttack and Berhampur Municipal Corporations. Comprehensive Development Plans and Master Plans for all round urban development including urban sanitation and sewerage have also been prepared for eight towns including Rourkela, Sambalpur, Berhampur, Puri, Paradeep, Angul, Talcher, Kalinganagar and Jharsuguda. My Government is developing a Perspective Plan and Vision 2030 through IIT, Kharagpur for Greater Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Choudhwar, Khurda and Jatni.

**31.** My Government has undertaken ambitious afforestation programme and other forest and wildlife conservation and development programmes. As a result, forest cover has increased in the State by 2,100 ha as per Forest Assessment Report of Government of India. 95,535 ha afforestation programme has been undertaken during the year 2008-09. Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme is being promoted through Vana Samrakshyan Samities (VSS) and Forest Development Agencies. 10,128 sq.km. forest area has been brought under the fold of JFM and is being protected and managed through VSS. A new scheme "Elephant Management Plan" with financial outlay of Rs.53 crore is proposed to implemented over a period of five years with a view to reduce Man-Elephant conflict and protect elephants from poaching. A forestry sector development programme is also being implemented in selected districts.

**32.** My Government has stepped up its efforts to substantially improve road, port and rail connectivity, electrification, irrigation and drinking water supply for rural and urban areas in Orissa. The State Government has been mobilizing higher resources from different sources including External donors such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, Central Road Fund, RIDF, PMGSY, RLTA and other State Plan Schemes and allocating more than half of Annual Plan resources for improving and upgrading infrastructure. Orissa State Road Project, Vijaywada-Ranchi Highway, improvement of National and State Highways, development of Other District Roads, creation of large number of new bridges and cross-drainage works all over the State, and construction and improvement of rural roads have been undertaken. In Phase I of Orissa State Road Project, 204 km worth of identified roads are under implementation and Detailed Project Reports for another 257 km have been prepared. Under PMGSY, 9,830 km of all-weather roads have been constructed till December 2008 to provide connectivity to 4,416 unconnected habitations. Further, a programme for construction of 1,123 rural roads of length 4,678 km has been drawn under PMGSY to connect additional 1,790 habitations. In addition, under RIDF, 292 bridges and 202 rural roads have been completed up to December 2008 and construction of 155 bridges and 111 rural roads is in



progress. Cement concrete roads are being constructed in rural areas with a view to improving their connectivity and hygiene. Special allocations are being made year after year to ensure that incomplete infrastructure projects are expeditiously completed and people realize benefits of such projects at an early date. An allocation of Rs.60 crore was provided for improving urban roads during the year 2008-09 with a view to improving urban infrastructure and promoting growth centres. This scheme shall also continue in the next years.

**33.** The State Government has also formulated a Port Policy, 2004 and aims at developing 13 potential port sites under Public Private Partnership and through private participation. The construction of Dhamra Port through a Joint Venture Company of Larson & Tubro and TISCO is under progress. Memoranda of Understanding have also been signed with private developers for development of Port at Subarnarekha Mouth (Kritania) in Balasore district and Astarang in Puri district.

**34.** Orissa has one of the lowest electricity tariff in the country. There has been no hike in Retail Supply Consumer Tariff since the year 2001. With a view to electrify all eligible villages, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutkaran Yojana (RGGVY), a Central Sector Scheme, is being implemented through Central PSU in all districts except Malkangiri. In addition, the State Government has also launched a new scheme, Biju Gram Jyoti to further intensify electrification of rural habitations, particularly those having less than 100 population. This State Sector Scheme is being implemented in all 30 districts and 2,570 habitation of targeted 4,534 habitations have already been covered. These schemes shall also continue to be implemented during the year 2009-10.

**35.** As a result of increasing private investment, rapid industrialization and rural electrification, the demand for electricity has been rapidly increasing in the State. Therefore, efforts are made to enhance power generating capacity with the State

through various sources including State PSU, private sector and joint ventures. Thirteen (13) independent Power Producing Companies, with whom the State Government has signed MOU prior to 31.1.2009 to produce 17,245 MW capacity, are making good progress. A 4,000 MW capacity Power Plant is proposed to be set up in Sundergarh district. Two State PSU, namely, Orissa Mining Corporation and Orissa Hydro Power Corporation have formed a Joint Venture to set up a 2,000 MW capacity Power Plant in two phases.

**36.** Orissa is endowed with a variety of vast mineral resources and therefore, occupies a prominent place in the mineral map of the country. Abundant reserves of high grade iron ore, coal, bauxite, chromites etc. available in the State has opened up immense possibilities for locating mineral based industries for manufacturing Steel, Cement, Alumina / Aluminum, Titanium etc.

My Govt. has laid emphasis on grant of mining leases for mineral based industries for value addition so as to generate more employment and revenue and to promote industrialization in the state. Accordingly 49 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been signed with various Steel Promoters for setting up of steel plants. The proposed investment is of the order of about Rs.2 lakh crore with the estimated production of about 74.66 millions tones per annum of steel. Out of these 28 companies have already started partial production achieving a production capacity of 4.01 MTPA of Steel, 5.16 MTPA of Sponge iron, 0.63 MTPA of Pig iron and 0.29 MTPA of Ferro Chrome. These industries have provided direct and indirect employment to 15,842 and 37,653 persons respectively.

The mineral sector earned revenue to the tune of Rs.845.41 crores during the current year (From April'2008 to November'2008), which exceeded the collection of Rs.595.72 crores, during the corresponding period of 2007-08. The target for collection of mining revenue for the current financial Year 2008-09 has been fixed Rs.1250.00 crores and all out efforts are being made to achieve this target. In order to ensure effective enforcement measures to prevent theft, smuggling and illegal mining in the State, a new Rule called Orissa Minerals (Prevention of Theft Smuggling & illegal Mining and Regulation of Possession,

Storage, Trading and Transportation) Rules 2007 has been promulgated w. e. f. 16.07.2007.

The Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR), 2007 envisages a robust policy framework for industrial promotion and investment facilitation including creation of an enabling environment. As a result, a large number of investment proposals are being received in the state for setting up mineral based industries such as steel, power, alumina and aluminium. The total value of investments in all these sectors exceeds Rs.6 lakh crores.

My Government has recently announced an MSME Policy in order to provide focused attention to micro, small and medium enterprises. Steps are being taken to restructure and strengthen industry-friendly corporations such as the OSFC and OSIC.

**37.** In order to promote Orissa as a preferred destination for tourists, several measures have been taken recently. National and international campaign has been launched to enhance awareness of potential tourists about Orissa. Greater effort has also been laid on improving infrastructure and facilities for tourists at different tourist destinations. An integrated Beach Tourism Project called, "Shamuka Beach Project" is under preparation near Puri in PPP mode to provide tourism facilities of international standards. Some of our efforts have borne fruits. There is a 4% increase in foreign tourists and 12% domestic tourists despite global melt-down.

**38.** My Government has implemented National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). The vision of NeGP is to make all Government services accessible to the common man through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs.

The State Wide Area Network (OSWAN) has been started connecting 30 district headquarters, 58 sub-division headquarters, 171 tahasil headquarters and 314 block headquarters with the State headquarter. This will be the backbone for e-Governance applications of all Departments and e-Seva to the public.

State Data Centre (SDC) is being established by IT Department for management of the Government administration through ON-LINE Web enabled applications.

Orissa has been enlisted among 16 other States to implement the Common Service Centres (CSC). Nearly 600 Common Service Centres have been established across the State providing services to the citizens at their door steps.

Orissa is one among the four States to implement the e-Procurement successfully. At present all tenders above Rs.50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs) are being executed through e-Procurement system.

Apart from these, Mission Mode projects like e –Registration, digitization of Land Records, e-District etc are also being implemented by the Government.

**39.** The Government has also taken policy decisions to privatize / disinvest loss making PSU and Co-operative Enterprises in non-core sectors. This will enable the Government to focus on core public sector and improve their working and corporate governance. In line with these policy decisions, a “Corporate Governance Code for State PSU” is being developed with the help of Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad. As a part of Orissa Public Sector Reforms Programme, the State Government has set up “Orissa State Renewal Fund Society” to continue to support public sector reform programmes.

**40.** The State was visited with a natural calamity of rare severity when 25 Districts of the State were affected by severe flood in which 60 lakh people in 2157 Grampanchayat were affected 110 human lives were lost and more than 2.5 lakh dwelling houses were damaged. My Government responded to the challenge quickly and effectively by way of well-organized rescue efforts and quick distribution of relief. The post flood restoration of communications and closure of beaches have also been done speedily.

Distribution house sites to the homestead-less is a priority programme of my Government. Under the project “Vasundhara” 5293 house sites have been allotted

during 2008-09, up to October 2008. The campaign “Mo Jami Mo Diha” launched by the State Government in order to protect the land rights of the poor is being implemented successfully. More than 20 lakh land holding families have been distributed with Land Pass Books by end of October 2008.

In the wake of communal riot in Kandhamal District after the murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, my Government has under-taken massive relief and rehabilitation measures for the riot victims. An ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakhs to the next of kin of persons died and construction assistance of Rs. 50,000/- for fully damaged and Rs.20,000/- for partially damaged dwelling houses are being provided. My Government has also announced a generous special compensation for damaged religious palaces of worship.

My Government has already announced a new R & R Policy, which is considered one of the best in the country. Under this, upward revision of rehabilitation grant in monetary terms with reference to wholesale price index has been announced. Preparatory arrangements have been made to implement project “Punarbhas” through Orissa Computer Application Centre (OCAC) for developing application software for land acquisition process automation, R& R monitoring and evaluation.

**41.** The overall Law and Order situation in the State remained normal during the year except in Kandhamal district where serious law and order problems erupted in the wake of killing of Swami Laxmananda Saraswati and four of his disciples. The State Government took prompt measures to restore normalcy in the district. CRPF and Para Military Forces were deployed in the districts. Peace Committees were also formed in different parts of the districts to undertake confidence building measures. As a result, Christmas and New Year Day celebrations were observed peacefully. Two fast track courts are also being established in Kandhamal district for speedy disposal of riot related cases. A model rehabilitation and restoration programme has been adopted for the

rehabilitation of riot affected people. Naxal induced violence was also witnessed in some districts.

**42.** My Government has decided to establish 20 new Police Stations, upgrade 46 outposts to Police Stations and set five Marine Police Stations in the State. The strength of Special Operation Group has been upgraded by creation of 878 additional posts in different categories. The recruitment process for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Reserve Battalions has been completed. There is also a proposal to recruit 2,100 Adivasi Youth as Special Police Officers from Malkangiri, Rayagada, Koraput and Kandhmal districts. The recruitment process has already begun. The manpower of 83 Naxalite affected Police Stations has been substantially augmented. Government of India has also sanctioned establishment of one Counter Insurgency Battalion for Resolute Action (COBRA) in Koraput so that response to naxal induced violence and other types of calamities is fast and effective. It has been decided to recruit 1,652 ex-Army Personnel in the State Police and to create 1,500 posts for deployment of ex-Servicemen in Naxal affected districts.

**43.** To combat Naxalism, the State Government has also taken steps for modernization of police force by acquiring new vehicles, modern weapons and ammunitions. Modern training facilities, forensic examinations, bomb detection equipments, sabotage sensitizing, acquisition of modern equipments for general police and traffic police are some the measures in this direction. Construction of non-residential and residential buildings and fortification of Police establishment and armouries have also been undertaken in all sensitive areas.

**44.** For improvement of Prison Administration, 21 new jails have been constructed and fortification of 10 jails has been made. Cell phone Jammers have been installed at Circle Jail, Choudwar and Special Jail, Bhubaneswar. Video conferencing system has been put in place in Circle Jail, Choudwar, Berhampur and Special Jail, Bhubaneswar. Nine new Courts have also been established in 2008-09. Separate Judgeships in ten bifurcated districts are proposed during

2009-10. 533 Lok Adalats have been organized and 120,335 cases were disposed of during 2008-09. Legal services have been provided to 1,694 persons. In addition, 545 Legal Awareness / Literacy Camps have also been organized during the current year.

45. My Government has been pursuing fiscal reform measures with avowed zeal so that the State's finances continue to improve; debt stocks is first stabilized and then reduced in a systematic manner and we are in a position to fulfill our development aspirations. In fact, after a gap of 61 years, the State has been in a position to reduce the debt stock from Rs.37,249.51 crore at the end of 2006-07 to Rs.36,311.61 crore at the end of 2007-08. No efforts have been spared to ensure that development of infrastructure and maintenance of capital assets like roads, buildings, irrigation projects, and other works. The Capital outlay has continuously increased from Rs.1,038.06 crore in 2005-06 to Rs.1,451.47 crore in 2006-07 and Rs.2,843.41 crore in 2007-08. We have also brought down interest to revenue receipts ratio to 14.4% in 2007-08 as against 15% as mandated by the 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. The ratio of the State's own receipts to GSDP has gone up from 5.64% in 1999-00 to 9.21% in 2007-08. There is, however, no room for complacency and my Government is committed to fiscal prudence as a strategy for development.

46. 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 Orissa. My Government will pursue these policies and programmes relentlessly. I have no doubt that the labours of this August House would be directed towards that end.

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

**Jai Hind.**