

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome all of you to the Sixth Session of 15th Odisha Legislative Assembly. I extend my heartiest Greetings to all the Hon'ble Members of this August House as well as to the people of Odisha.

1. This August House has expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of Late A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Ex-President of India and Late Janaki Ballav Patnaik, Ex-Chief Minister of Odisha & Ex-Governor of Assam, Late Habibulla Khan, Kalindi Behera, Sriballav Panigrahi, Ananda Acharya & Kalpataru Das, all Ex-Ministers, Late Kartik Mahapatra, Ex-Minister of State, Late Dayanidhi Kisan, Satyananda Champatiray, Onkar Singh Majhi, Parsuram Panigrahi, Sarat Paikaray, Premalata Mahapatra, Chandrasekhar Pradhan, Rabindra Kumar Das, Raj Kishore Pradhan & Bidhubhusan Praharaj, all Ex-Members of this August House who have made significant contribution to the development of the State. This House has also expressed its condolence on the sad demise of Late Jaga Khilla, Ex-Grama Rakshi, Odisha Police who has rendered exemplary and selfless service and laid down his life for the cause of the Nation. I request Hon'ble Members to join me in paying tribute to Late Maheswar Baug, Ex-Minister of State, Late Gurubaru Majhi & N. Kurma Naikulu, all former Members of this August House, Late Sunil Kumar Behera, Ex-Deputy Commandant, BSF, Late Kishore

Ranjan Rawat & Sibasis Panda, all Ex-Constables, BSF who are no more with us. The House may convey our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families of the departed souls.

2. Let me take this opportunity to convey my sincere appreciation of the relentless efforts taken by My Government for successfully organizing the first Nabakalebar of the new millennium as a result of which lakhs of devotees all around the globe could peacefully witness the eventful Rath Yatra following the Nabakalebar. Let me also express my deep gratitude to the people of Odisha, who have exhibited great resilience and generosity true to their culture and tradition to the lakhs of devotees visiting Puri during the entire festival from most parts of the country and abroad.

3. The remarkable achievements made by My Government to reduce poverty have thrown up new challenges of a qualitative life keeping in line with the changing times. My Government is closely following these new behavioral trends and constantly improvising and aligning governance measures so as to ensure a better governed society.

4. The year just gone by put our efficiency and effectiveness to test. Being the hottest year and followed by significant moisture stress, a real threat emerged in the shape of a serious drought situation in most parts of the State. I am proud to inform all the Hon'ble Members that My Government

proactively responded to the challenges by initiating quick damage controlling measures across different wings of the Government and successfully minimized its cascading effects on the farmers of our State.

5. A package of one thousand crores were immediately announced, collection of land revenue and crop loans were deferred for three years, further crop loans were advanced to farmers without asking for repayment and immediate steps taken to repair and restore defunct irrigation sources to save the standing crops.

6. My Government submitted its final damage report to the Government of India seeking Central Assistance of Rs. 2344.99 crores to overcome the drought situation, and pending receipt of any such assistance from the Government of India, released an amount of Rs. 519.30 crores to the affected districts towards agriculture input subsidy for disbursement to the affected farmers.

My Government has successfully contained the adverse effects of the drought and protected lives and livelihoods of affected farmers and their families.

7. We are living in an era, which is by and large technology driven. So it is imperative for all of us to assimilate such technologies that have positive impact on our living standards. My Government is very anxious to spread the

use of technology, be it in solving social or economic issues. While forging ahead, one of the key principles of My Government will be to maximize use of technology in each and every aspect of our subsistence.

8. Our aim is to achieve a growth rate of 9% during the 12th Plan Period, which My Government wants to set as the 'new normal' and to achieve this, My Government is progressively increasing resource allocations to various State Plan activities. While My Government has approved an outlay of Rs. 44,150 crores for 2015-16, we intend to increase the Plan outlay to Rs. 45,000 crores during 2016-17.

9. Our commitment for inclusive growth backed by our own increasing resource allocations for the same have made us the fastest growing economy in our country, nearly doubling the per capita income with the highest reduction of poverty in a decade. I can assure you of our unflinching commitment towards the progress of our State.

10. Despite discontinuation of Special Central Assistance to KBK districts, My Government has enhanced its contribution from the State Plan to complete ongoing projects in the region. Of the Rs 250 crores proposed under Biju KBK Plan for 2015-16, Rs 130 crores is provided for State Sector and Rs 120 crores provided for the District Sector.

11. To promote innovation to solve local problems in a cost-effective manner, My Government has launched 4 sub-schemes and instituted awards for each of them. My Government has also established 6 Innovation-cum-Incubation centers to encourage innovative thinking to arrive at smart solutions.

12. To bring in innovative planning through the spirit of convergence, My Government has renamed the concerned Department as “Planning and Convergence Department” to encourage convergence among different stakeholders in the planning process.

13. Ever since there has been a change in the National Polity, a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and programmes are either restructured, some stopped and a few new programmes taken up. Such changes at the National Level impacted the quantum of Central Assistance to the States. It has added an element of uncertainty on the level of central funds flowing into the States, thereby rendering the budget making exercise at the state level a tricky one. For, in the absence of clear indications on the quantum of funds to be received by the State, the budget so prepared will be an exercise in futility.

14. Realising this, My Government for the first time has taken a conscious decision to defer placing the budget in the

Legislative Assembly until we get a clarity on the quantum of funds to be received from the Central Government, so that the budget is prepared in alignment with the relevant provisions in the schemes & programmes supported by Union Budget.

15. My Government has already weathered through such uncertainties in the quantum of central transfer and pending receipt of the recommendation of Fourteenth Finance Commission but could formulate a pragmatic budget in 2015-16 with increased emphasis on investment in social and economic sectors for creation of physical and human capital. We are certain to carry on with this prudence and come out with a splendid budget for 2016-17.

16. With our emphasis on capital investment in economic and social sectors, My Government has resorted to Open Borrowing after a gap of eight years within the overall limit fixed by Union Government. The entire amount of Rs. 3,000 crores thus raised has been fully utilized for capital investment, thus raising the share of capital investment to 3.6% of GSDP.

17. The economic slowdown had its shadow on My Government's abilities to augment resource mobilization, though we could achieve our budgeted target through better revenue mobilization measures. I am happy to share with

you that the State's own tax revenues increased by 17.43% and non-revenue receipts registered a growth of 10.40%, making the tax/GSDP ratio to climb to 6.38%.

18. Being an agrarian state and nearly 60% of the State population being directly or indirectly dependant on this sector for livelihoods, Agriculture continues to be the most critical sector for Odisha. My Government has always been very sensitive to the developments in this sector and has gone way ahead to support and empower farmers of our State. As recognition to the importance of the sector, My Government has been preparing a separate budget for this sector for the last three years for judicious allocation of resources, better targeting of farmers' needs and also to enhance productivity.

19. Despite widespread moisture stress experienced across the State, we have surpassed food grain production over last year to touch 120 lakh MTs, for which every one of us here must appreciate the resilience of our farming community. This could be possible only due to the quick response by My Government to the needs of the farmers. And the Krishi Karman Award that the State has bagged for the fourth time in the last 5 years is a recognition of their dedication.

20. To further boost the sector's productivity, My Government is taking effective steps to increase seed replacement ratio which is now as high as 37% and to make available quality

seeds to the farmers while protecting indigenous varieties. For better planning inputs, soil health management is being given due importance with establishment of 27 static and 11 mobile laboratories. Application of new technology and use of mechanized tools also form part of our farm productivity improvement programme.

21. As the climatic and soil conditions of our State are very favorable for horticulture produce and give better income to our farmers, My Government is motivating farmers to diversify into these products and reduce post harvest losses. My Government has taken up specific programs for their handling, storage and transport. My Government is providing additional 20% assistance over and above the National Horticulture Mission to encourage entrepreneurs to offer such services in the hinterland.

22. As small and marginal farmers constitute an overwhelming majority of the total farmers, and as there was a need for placing focus on individual farmers to enable and empower them to avail the various benefits under different schemes and programmes of the Government, My Government has recently thought it appropriate to change the name of the Agriculture Department to the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment which will now result in an inclusive approach and sharpen its focus on

empowerment of farmers for their overall development through various activities.

23. My State is among the few states in the country, which now has an Agriculture Cabinet to look into the growth of cultivation and find ways to overcome hurdles being faced by farmers, and the first meeting of the Cabinet has already been held on 3rd March this year.

24. Our State has 6.78 lakh hectares of freshwater, 480 kilometres of coast line and 4.18 lakh hectares of brackish water resources for development of fisheries sector. Thus, the Commercial prospects of this sector are very high with high potential to earn precious foreign exchange. To provide better emphasis and fully augment the potential of this sector, My Government has approved the “Odisha Fishery Policy-2015 that aims to double fish production in the next five years. The Policy further aims to create and augment the required infrastructure enhance knowledge and skills of people engaged therein and special focus has been given to increase Brackish Water Shrimp production in the State.

25. Similar Policy frameworks are being proposed for Animal Resource sector to achieve self-sufficiency and becoming a leading State in the Country. For the promotion of Bovine & Poultry development in the State, My Government has

formulated the Bovine Breeding Policy 2015 and the Poultry Policy 2015 to achieve self-sufficiency in these sectors.

26. My Government with the intention of providing hygienic and fresh fish in Bhubaneswar is proposing to open 26 more Chilika Fresh Outlets which will very soon be followed by the opening of 100 Chilika fresh and 100 Chicken Fresh units throughout the State.

27. Let me assure all of you that in My State, the Co-operative movement will continue to be a strong pillar of our rural growth. From extending crop loans and loans for allied activities directly and through Kisan Credit Cards and Kisan Credit Gold Cards and protecting them through crop insurance schemes, the Co-operation Department is at the forefront of extending all support to the needy farmers and other weaker sections of our society. To reduce post-harvest losses and to desist farmers from indulging in distress sale of their produce, My Government has taken up a number of measures including construction of threshing floor, drying yards and Godowns, creation of modern warehousing facilities, a network of cold storage chains and most importantly, creating network of interfaces across the State for efficient delivery of services.

28. To reach the farmers and other people in remote and tribal dominated Blocks of the State, My Government has

recently launched the first of its kind facility in the country 'Banks on Wheels' scheme in 20 backward blocks covering 16 districts and My Government would like to ensure that all the 314 blocks of Odisha get the Banks on Wheels which have facilities like ATM, information kiosk and full-fledged branch for providing financial inclusion service to the farmers in the tribal areas of the State.

29. My Government has also come up with a Core Banking Data Management Centre to provide connectivity to all branches of OSCB and District Central Cooperative Banks for core banking services.

30. To provide easy access to farmers to debit facility at all banks across the country, the Odisha State Cooperative Bank has become a member of the National Payment Corporation of India and has issued *RuPay* ATM Debit Cards to the farmers of the State that are accessible at 1.88 lakh ATMs of all the banks across the country.

31. Irrigation and efficient management of irrigation sector tops the list of priorities of My Government. The Department of Water Resources has been mandated to create additional 10 lakh hectares of irrigation by 2019 by completing some of the ongoing Major/Medium/Minor Irrigation Projects, expanding the canal system in some of the reservoir projects, through construction of at least 10,000 Check Dams, one

lakh Deep Bore Wells and a large number of Lift Irrigation Projects including Micro River Lift Irrigation Projects and commissioning of at least 175 Mega Lift Irrigation Projects. In order to achieve this, My Government has increased the budgetary allocation for the sector substantially. At this juncture, I am happy to share with you that our progress on this front has been very encouraging so far and we are absolutely sure of achieving the target.

32. My Government has been overwhelmed to see the huge response from farmers for the State funded Deep Borewell energization & Check Dam Construction programme. 94,520 applications have already been received for Borewell energization and 14,859 beneficiaries have already deposited their contributions. Besides, My Government's flagship program of Construction of Mega Lift Irrigation Projects is going on as scheduled and we have commissioned the 1st such project in Kalahandi very recently.

33. I am glad that the overall law and order situation of the State is peaceful. Communal harmony has been maintained and the industrial climate is peaceful. Standard Operating Procedures to deal with Rail and Rasta Rokos have been formulated. There is perceptible improvement in the LWE scenario. The situation is under control in the districts of Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nabarangpur, Deogarh, Sundargarh and Nayagarh and

challenging in parts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Keonjhar, Nayagarh, Boudh, Angul, Bolangir, Bargarh and Rayagada districts.

34. The incidents of LWE violence and death of security personnel and civilians this year have been less in number. Surrender of LWEs has increased in the State. Our development initiatives coupled with social security measures are making an impact on these areas.

35. In order to strengthen the criminal justice system to achieve high conviction rate, the present system of prosecution is being revisited. The syllabus for recruitment of Prosecutors has been revised to encourage young Advocates. State Level Standing Committee and District Level Standing Committees are functioning to review the acquittal orders for any deficiencies and to fix up accountability. Crime against women and other heinous crimes are particularly focused and strict accountability measures have been developed to carry out special investigation in cases of crime against women. Posts in different ranks have been sanctioned for establishment of 7 Investigating Units for Crime Against Women (IUCAW) in 7 districts.

36. We have mounted an assault on organized crime, tender and transport mafia. Various pro-active measures have been

taken like installation of CCTV in Engineering Offices, close liaison of police with Engineering Offices and e-tendering process. Transportation of minerals is a vital economic activity in the State. In order to continue these activities unabated we have promulgated ESMA to prohibit strikes.

37. My Government has always attempted to ensure proper maintenance and preservation of the structural stability of Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri with the assistance of Archaeological Survey of India as well as other bodies having expertise in architecture. My Government has implemented several schemes for the welfare of the Sevayats in the fields of health, housing and education of their children.

38. For quick and speedy disposal of litigations, My Government has given utmost priority to the mechanism of alternative dispute resolution which has received tremendous response from the litigants and reduced the burden on the regular courts to a great extent. My Government proposes to establish twenty-nine Subordinate Courts including ten Special Track Courts for speedy disposal of cases relating to atrocities on women.

39. My Government is going to set up of Legal Assistance Cells named after the great legal luminary Madhu Babu as "Madhu Babu Aaiin Sahayata Kendra" in every Gram Panchayat to provide single window facility for helping the

disadvantaged people in getting proper legal advice and solving their legal problems.

40. My Government is in the process of constituting the State Law Commission to review the existing State laws and suggest suitable amendment in such laws as well as repeal some of the existing laws which are no longer relevant.

41. For the welfare of the advocates in the State, my Government has announced enhancement of the annual grant to the Advocates' Welfare Fund of the State from Rupees one crore to Rupees three crores.

42. Providing affordable housing to people, especially to those belonging to Economically Weaker Sections is a high priority for My Government. My Government has launched 'Awaas', the Odisha Urban Housing Mission with a dedicated Mission Directorate to provide affordable housing along with basic amenities for Economically Weaker Sections in the State. The Mission Directorate has started functioning and we have set a target of constructing 1,50,000 dwelling units in the State under affordable housing/in-situ slum development during the next financial year. For effective implementation of this initiative, My Government has approved the Policy for Housing for All and created a State Housing Fund and CDP Infrastructure Development Fund (CIDF) for providing land and funding for such projects.

43. Fulfilling the promise I made in my last address to this house, My Government has set up Odisha Urban Livelihoods Mission in 77 Urban local Bodies that are not covered under the Centrally Funded Mission and it aims to skill 10,000 youths for self-employment.

44. Provision of safe drinking water and better sanitation facilities to urban dwellers has been the focus area of My Government. My Government has identified 92 hotspots in 24 ULBs which face acute shortage of safe drinking water during summer and has put in an action plan to provide short term & long term solutions. Efforts are on to replace age old pipelines in 66 ULBs which are prone to leakage & contamination. Encouraged by the successful running of city bus services under PPP mode, My Government will soon launch similar services in Koraput-Jeypore-Sunabeda, Balasore-Bhadrak cluster and Cuttack-Choudwar-Athagarh-Banki cluster.

Further, My Government is in the process of ushering in a paradigm shift in Town Planning by making land owners primary stakeholders in urban planning and development. It is a matter of great pride for our State that our capital city Bhubaneswar has been ranked as Number one in the Country in the smart city competition.

The German Government has agreed to partner with the State in the smart city development of Bhubaneswar.

45. My Government will set up 314 Adarsh Vidyalays in all the Blocks of the State to provide the opportunity of quality English Medium education to rural students at Block level. Vocational education in schools shall commence in one school of every district as a pilot project. To encourage school drop outs and similar other children who have left school to support their families for livelihoods, My Government has started State Institute of Open Schooling along with study centres in seven districts to enable such children to complete basic education while earning. My Government has introduced Centralized Kitchen Policy under Mid-Day-Meals program to ensure supply of standardised mid-day meals in the most hygienic condition to school students.

46. My Government has provided bicycles to 4,88,632 students, text books to 2,81,59,424 students, school uniform to 49,29,935 students; has disbursed Rs. 12.17 crores towards scholarships to primary and upper primary students, Rs. 7.39 crores at the secondary level and Rs.2.50 crores towards Pathani Samanta Mathematics Talent Scholarship during the current year.

47. Odisha has the potential to emerge as the knowledge hub of our country. My Government has established three

new Government universities, has agreed to contribute 40% to the Rashtriya Uchatara Sikshya Abhijan in the 12th and 13th Plan is in the process of establishing 8 new Model Colleges in the backward areas of the State and created 98 language-cum-Communication laboratories to enhance soft skills of the students.

48. Provision of free laptops to 15,000 +2 pass meritorious students every year under “Biju Yuva Sasaktikaran Yojana” is going apace and along with it My Government has taken up imparting self-defence training to college going girl students across the State. Further, we are overhauling the examination process to bring in more transparency and undertaking syllabus revision to align it with the changing times. During the current year up to January, My Government has disbursed scholarships worth Rs. 22 crores to nearly twenty four thousand students studying at different levels.

49. To popularize science at the grassroots level, My Government has opened a Sub-Regional Science Center in Bargarh district very recently and we have plans to open such centres in other parts of our State. Promotion of alternate energy sources is being pursued vigorously wherein My Government has installed 434 bio-gas plants, supplied 4,763 chullahs to 2,386 schools, commissioned 25 MW Grid Connected Solar Project in Bolangir district and with support from the Central Government, My Government will provide

solar power to small irrigation and drinking water supply schemes. It is heartening to inform you that My Government is in the process of establishing 2nd Planetarium in Burla shortly. My Government has also framed the “Odisha State Data Policy-2015’ to better organize and use the vast amount of data getting generated for better targeting of different Government programs.

50. My Government has since long realized the benefits that will accrue to our fellow citizens through adoption of IT at all levels of governance and has been working very hard to make Odisha a completely e-governed State. It has been a matter of importance for My Government to leverage our efforts to attract investments into this sector, create world class institutions, and to create a talent pool that willfully supports to make Odisha a digitally empowered State and a knowledge economy in the days to come.

51. My Government has brought in telecom wizard Sam Pitroda as its technology adviser for development of telecom, electronics, IT and ITES sectors of the State and to work for Vision 2036, a vision document for holistic development of Odisha in the next 20 years.

52. The rich mix and variety of mineral resources available in Odisha has attracted huge investments into the mineral based industry sector. Converting such investments into

working industries for the benefit of our economy as well as generating employment opportunities has been a stiff challenge for My Government. I am happy to inform this August House that My Government in Steel and Mines Department has been able to streamline the working of the mineral sector through issuance of policies, guidelines and directives. Further, to cater to the requirements of the Steel industries that are coming up in Odisha, My Government has decided to set up a dedicated Directorate within the Steel & Mines Department. I am sure the proposed Directorate will play a facilitator role for the industry and pave an impediment free path for their growth.

53. My Government has already framed the Odisha District Mineral Foundation Rules 2015 and has constituted the District Foundations in all the 30 districts of the State, under which dedicated funds with mandatory contribution from the industry will be collected and used for the development of the mining affected areas. My Government has already issued the Odisha Mineral Exploration Policy for better assessment of mineral resources in the State and for devising ways for optimal utilization of such natural resources.

54. During the Financial Year 2015-16, the Directorate of Geology of My Government has undertaken 11 exploration programmes for minerals like coal, iron ore, manganese, gemstone, graphite, heavy minerals and dimension stone in

the districts of Jharsuguda, Angul, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Puri and Boudh. Investigation for graphite covering an area of 25 sq-km around Panchubai in Rayagada district is in progress.

55. We in our State are steadfast in improving the ease of doing business environment and in emerging as a growing industrial State.

My Government recently brought out the New Industrial Policy Resolution-2015 which has been framed taking into account the expectations voiced by the business and industrial community. With its emphasis on sectors where Odisha enjoys unparalleled comparative advantage, the New Policy aims to take Odisha onto a higher growth orbit. From making available quality infrastructure, creation of land banks for faster allotment of land, the New Policy is determined to remove all possible bottlenecks while creating appropriate and empowered institutions with appropriate delegation of powers and responsibilities.

56. By offering sector specific policies for ICT, Food Processing, MSME Development, Tourism and with specific focus to promote electronic manufacturing and with the development of three large investment regions at Kalinganagar, Paradeep and Dhamara, My State has now become one of the most preferred investment destinations.

My State is also developing a good number of sector specific parks to encourage investment in focus sectors.

57. We have entered into a strategic partnership with TiE Silicon Valley and are coming up with an exclusive start-up policy for the State to provide impetus to the start-up ecosystem. In addition, a plug-n-play infrastructure facility of 0.5 million sq. feet for incubators, accelerators and start-up ventures has also been set up in our State.

58. With the country's largest Steel Plant of TATA STEEL becoming operational at Kalinganagar, the faith of investors in my State has been reassured, and, complementing this with our investor friendly policy and the ease of doing business framework have now made My State a competitive and attractive "Manufacturing Hub of the East".

59. It gives me immense pleasure to bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble members of this August House that during the last investors meet at the 'Make In India' campaign held in Mumbai, My State has been able to attract investments of more than Rs. 70,000 crores, with a majority of the investment coming in the non-mineral sectors.

60. MSME sector contributes immensely to the value addition and generate huge employment locally. My Government adopted suitable measures to promote the sector. Creating

a new department to facilitate & monitor MSME growth is a bold move taken by My Government.

61. Ours has been a pioneering State in the country to bring up a dedicated MSME Development Policy 2009 which focused on key issues like infrastructure, credit, technology and marketing. My Government has also come up with Odisha Food Processing Policy-2013 and Odisha Export Policy-2014 to promote food processing in a big way and boost export promotion.

62. As of now, more than 1,60,000 MSME units have been established in our State with an investment of more than Rs. 7900 crores which have been instrumental in providing employment opportunities to more than 8.5 lakh youths of My State. My Government has already facilitated establishment of 32,938 units with parallel employment opportunities for 1,01,885 youths.

63. My Government has taken up this ambitious goal of creating 1,50,000 MSMEs with an employment potential of 4,00,000 more persons within the next five years. My Government is also attempting to strengthen the Export Promotion & Marketing Directorate, Odisha Small Industries Corporation and Odisha State Financial Corporation to establish an integrated framework which shall augment the growth and sustenance of this sector.

64. The euphoria over actualizing the demographic dividend can be enjoyed only if the youth are motivated and prepared to contribute to the growth agenda. My Government has accorded utmost priority to train and skill such youths so as to ensure that they are employable. My Government has taken up a range of measures to address skill deficit and has ambitious plans for the future as well. My Government has plans to establish seven new Training-the-Trainers centers at strategic locations, 13 New ITIs, 72 Skill Development centres besides augmenting the Apprenticeship training in various industries. Under Chief Minister's Employment Generation Program, My Government aims to upgrade the skill of 150 youths from every Gram Panchayat and ensure their placement. Overall, My Government has set a target to train 9.3 lakh youths across 6,234 Gram Panchayats and 1.7 lakh youths from urban areas in the next four years.

65. While our Country is progressively moving ahead to a free market model, it requires us to have protective institutions and proactive mechanisms in place. The State Owned Enterprises have to play a significant role in this. My Government has been consistently working to make such key enterprises robust and resilient by introducing various performance enhancing measures so that these units are

perfectly aligned to the emerging business practices and are capable of adapting to the changing times.

66. I am happy to announce that during the past 5 years under Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikarana Yojana & Biju Saharanchal Vidyutikarana Yojana, My State's energy sector is currently serving more than 54 lakh consumers of the State and supplying power for 24-hours. In the meanwhile it has added around 25 lakh BPL Consumers in its fold, and also has plans to add 42 lakhs more consumers by 31st March 2017 so as to cover all households in the State.

67. To strengthen the distribution infrastructure of My State, construction of 500 more 33/11KV sub-stations under Odisha Distribution System Strengthening Project has been initiated with an investment of Rs. 4200 crores. Out of these 100 sub-stations are going to be commissioned by June 2016 and around 250 sub-stations are at different stages of completion and it is expected to commission all the 500 sub-stations by March 2018.

68. Energy Transmission System of My State has in the meantime, been strengthened by the use of modern technologies and plans to add 12,649 MVA capacity and 5337 circuit kilometre at intra-State level to wheel power from the upcoming generating stations for the State.

69. The thermal generation units like OPGC, OPTCL, UMPP and IPPs are going to add a capacity of 10310 MW by 2021-22. Similarly, our hydro stations are planning for renovation and expansion of the existing stations at Burla, Balimela, Chipilima and Machhkund by investing 1088 crores by the coming year. My Government proposes to add a capacity of 3.078 GW of renewable energy by 2022. To increase the share of green energy in the energy mix, My Government has set a target of creating 2,378 MW of Solar Power by 2022.

70. As movement through waterways is both economical and environment friendly, My Government has developed plans to have Inter-State waterways while simultaneously working to develop more ports. I am happy to inform the members that recently My Government has commenced work on providing uninterrupted waterway connectivity to Kalinga Nagar Manufacturing Zone from Paradeep and Dhamara Port, and recently restored Gopalpur Port, which was heavily damaged during the Cyclone Phailin.

71. To inculcate better road behavior and to prevent fatalities, My Government has formulated the “Road Safety Policy-2015” to reduce major mishaps by 20% in the next three years. Further, through e-governance measures, the transport Department has been striving to put forward a very

user friendly interface in place to assist the multitude of passengers that avail the public transport system each day.

72. I am happy to announce that “Biju Gaon Gadi Yojana” which was started by My Government to provide bus services to remote and inaccessible Gram Panchayats has made good inroads and with 484 BGGY buses plying in 3 different phases of the programme, and, we have been able to connect 349 Gram Panchayats along with Government run stage carriages.

73. My Government, to enhance railway density in the State and provide railway connectivity to the 7 left out districts early, offered to pay 50% of the construction cost along with the required land free of premium for the Khurda- Bolangir rail link Project as a result of which railway connectivity has now been extended up to Nayagarh District and work in the balance portion is going on in full swing. For Jaipur-Malkangiri and Jaipur-Nabarangpur railway projects which shall provide railway connectivity to the tribal and inaccessible districts of the State, My Government has now extended similar concessions for early execution of both the projects. I am happy to intimate this august house that as of now we are the only State in the entire country to have done this.

74. Efficient management of land resources, which is limited by nature, is quite a challenging task. One of My Governments’ key goal is to allot land to homesteadless

families and distribute cultivable waste land to landless farmers. I am happy to inform all of you that till the end of December 2015, a total of 1,03,825 families have been identified out of which 24,913 families were given homestead land. To provide stringent punishment to land grabbers and to facilitate underground pipelines, My Government is coming out with two policies i.e. the Odisha Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Act, 2015 and the Odisha Pipelines (Acquisition of right of users in Land) Act 2015.

75. Revenue from Excise collection is a significant contributor to the State exchequer. In order to streamline this sector, My Government has passed the Odisha Excise Act, which has been modeled along the model Excise Policy circulated by the Union Government. While the new Act proposes to streamline the Excise administration in the State, it has simultaneously incorporated stringent penal provisions for offenders. Multi-agency co-ordination in enforcement has visibly plugged the revenue leakages and also greatly reduced illicit trade in this segment.

76. I am happy to announce that General Administration Department has done appreciable job in faster release of assistance from Chief Ministers' Relief Fund, extending support under Harischandra Sahayata, and in adding 235 additional public Services to the existing list of services under Odisha Right to Public Services Act, 2012. By this we have

gone a step further to strengthen right based governance in our State.

77. Ease of access to information is slowly revolutionizing the societal foundations which calls for continuously updating one's knowledge and acquire new sets of skills. My Government has instituted "Chief Ministers' Award for Excellence for Innovation in Governance and Public Delivery" as a tool to encourage government functionaries to innovate new methods in public service delivery and has awarded a batch of such officers for their innovative works. Further, My Government has taken up mid-career training to officers in different cadres.

78. As a part of our commitment to provide direct employment opportunities to the youths of our State, I am happy to announce before this August House that My Government has been able to provide government jobs to more than 32,000 youths in its current tenure so far and almost all of the nearly 6000 cases pending under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme has also been finalized within the last one year.

79. To strike a perfect balance between the various factors of economic growth and reduce poverty is a major challenge. My Government has succeeded in increasing the forest cover and according to India State of Forest Report 2015, more than one third of the State's geographic area is covered under

forest, which is not a mean achievement when one looks at the pressing necessity to industrialize the State. This could be possible due to active participation of people living in the forests who have been well supported for their livelihoods through initiatives like 'Ama Jungle Yojana', taken up by my Government. My Government is working hard to prevent human-animal conflicts through various innovative ways.

80. My Government is protecting the sacred grooves and other traditional places of worship of the tribes by providing separate grants for their renovation, repair and restoration. This year My Government has enhanced the price of a KL Kerry from 60 paise to 70 paise and is paying a dividend of Rs.62 crores to the pluckers and incentive allowance of Rs. 5 crores to binders out of the KL trade surplus.

81. My Government has taken up a number of pro-active measures for all round development of the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Caste, Minorities and Backward Classes communities.

My Government has sanctioned 2850 hostels for providing boarding facilities to students out of which 2020 have already been completed. These hostels will be made operational from the coming academic session.

82. In order to provide quality education to ST&SC students, My Government has launched a new scheme called

'ANWESHA' during 2015-16 by which over 2700 students have benefited. This scheme provides free quality education to ST&SC students in the best privately managed schools in the State located in urban centers. At least 5000 ST&SC Students will be admitted during 2016-17. My Government would bear the entire costs towards Annual School Fees payable to the schools, with a maximum limit of Rs 25,000 per student. The students will also be provided free books, uniform and free urban hostel facilities.

83. My State had been a front runner in implementation of the Forest Rights Act. The State has provided over 3.50 lakh individual rights and over 5000 community rights so far. The Government is now emphasizing on disposal of Community Forest claims and disposal of appeals for individual Forest Rights.

84. My Government is committed to provide 100% coverage of pension, housing and other social security schemes for welfare of the PVTG households. The Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme (OPELIP) will be implemented by My Government with financial assistance from IFAD for improving the socio economic conditions of the 13 PVTG communities of the State.

85. We have a sizeable Minority population in the State and My Government is committed for their socio-economic welfare and livelihood development. For the students of

minority community to have access to higher education, My Government has plans to provide scholarships, hostels and infrastructure in Minority Educational Institutions.

86. The National Food Security Act 2013 has been successfully implemented in My State. It gives me immense satisfaction to inform this August House that 79.59 lakh families are being provided subsidised food across all districts of Odisha. A robust system has been put in place to keep the NFSA database up to date through Ration Card Management Systems in 314 blocks and 60 ULB headquarters. My Government also leveraged the power of IT to streamline paddy procurement and direct transfer of funds to the farmers' accounts. My Government is fully committed to make the entire paddy procurement operations transparent in near future.

87. Odisha is famous for its rich varieties of Handlooms and Handicrafts. Even in this digital age, a significant population of the State pursues this age-old artistry. Earning a livelihood is as important to them as keeping the tradition alive that is otherwise a unique identity for the State. Complementing their innate interests, My Government is extending a range of support services that include extending subsidized financial support, incentivizing technology adoption, upgrading skills and offering social security to the craftsmen and their families. My Government has recently entered into an MoU with Asian

Heritage Foundation patronized by Japan Social Fund & World Bank to create an Inclusive Business Model for marginalized tribal communities in Mayurbhanj and Koraput districts to enhance income levels by extending marketing support to their traditional products.

88. Providing affordable health services to the people of Odisha across the State continues to be one of the main drivers of My Government's actions. My Government is in the process of setting up a State Health Assurance Agency soon to bridge gaps in the provision of health services. Other key highlights of My Government's activities in the Health and Family Welfare sector include establishment of five new Medical Colleges, opening of a Post Graduate Institute in Capital Hospital, enhancement of MBBS seats to reach the benchmark of doctors per thousand of people, introduction of place based incentives to doctors to encourage them to serve the population living in inaccessible areas. My Government has recently announced the establishment of a new Government Medical College & Hospital in Keonjhar District and is committed to improve different Human Development Indicators through a host of measures.

My Government is providing 421 types of free medicines including 90 varieties of drugs for treatment of critical diseases at Government Hospitals to patients through

“Niramaya”, a scheme implemented by the Odisha State Medical Corporation.

89. Disseminating the correct message is very critical and has the unique power to influence perceptions and attitudes. As enhancing the well being and welfare of the common man is the prime responsibility of any Government, it becomes imperative on its part to develop and sustain an effective two way communication strategy conveyed in the most efficient manner. I am happy to say that the Information and Public Relations Department has gone ahead with the mandate in the most professional manner enabling Odisha to bag the prestigious National Award in the best Government Portal category instituted by Government of India.

90. To protect the interests of the wage earners, My Government has raised the minimum wages for 88 scheduled employment as well as minimum piece rate of wages for 15 scheduled employments, during July last year.

91. To properly combat the Child Labour issue and to eventually stop the practice, My Government has prepared the State Action Plan, an integrated approach that seeks to secure universal education under Right to Education Act, 2009, and prohibit, rescue and rehabilitate children in the State.

92. As part of State Action Plan for Safety and Welfare of Inter State Migrant Workmen, steps have been taken for voluntary registration of migrant workers at G.P. level, on a pilot basis, in four migration prone districts of Bolangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada of Odisha which would be helpful in tracking migrant workers in Destination States.

93. The Odisha Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board is extending different benefits to registered construction workers and their families which include assistance for purchase of working tools, safety equipments and bicycle, educational assistance, marriage assistance, maternity benefits assistance, assistance for skill development training, assistance in case of accident and major ailments, death benefits, funeral assistance etc. 13,07,424 Building and Other Construction Workers have so far been registered under the Board as beneficiaries. Rs.920.65 crores has so far been deposited in the Board's funds towards cess out of which Rs. 96.18 crores has been disbursed towards different benefits to 2.74 lakh beneficiaries during this year.

94. My Government is providing 50,000 houses under "Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana" to the registered construction workers in rural areas with Rs. 1 lakh as housing assistance per beneficiary family. My Government is also proposing to construct rental housing complex in urban areas

through the H&UD Department for the migrant building and other construction workers. Further, My Government proposes to start Nirman Shramik Pension Yojana shortly.

95. In Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) beneficiary families enrolled in 30 districts of the State is Rs.44.08 lakh. Till date 4,50,495 of smart card holders have availed benefits to the tune of Rs. 1.54 crores. Under the ESI Scheme full medical care to 3,78,270 Insured Persons and their family members have been provided through a network of five ESI Hospitals and 38 ESI Dispensaries. As on 29.02.2016 the number of Insured Persons under the ESI Scheme is 3,78,270.

96. To facilitate timely delivery of pension to retired Government servants, My Government has fixed timelines for different cadres and has been conducting pre-scrutiny meetings and Pension Adalats across districts to resolve pending issues of pensioners. My Government is equally concerned to redress grievances of people faster and to make it effective, My Government has come out with a Grievance Map of districts that enables the Departments to better identify causes of grievances and enable them to devise redressal mechanisms. Grievance boxes are placed in all district Collectors offices including one at the Secretariat and a toll free number for people to air their problems. Collectors and SPs of the districts are holding joint grievance hearing at

different places of the district including Block and Gram Panchayat headquarters to interact with the public and redress their grievance in an effective manner.

97. A vibrant tourism sector is both a revenue generator and a powerful tool to bring our rich heritage and cultural tradition to a wide segment of population. My Government has fully comprehended the hidden potential of this sector and has been interacting meaningfully with people and groups who can contribute to its growth. Besides framing a dedicated policy for holistic development of the Tourism Sector, My Government is actively branding the State by participating in various forums, at national and international levels, using professional agencies and mediums to highlight the key tourism products that the State has.

98. My Government has started a new initiative called “Baristha Nagarika Tirthayatra Yojana” to promote Senior Citizens of all religions to visit places of religious and tourist interest inside and outside the State in coordination with IRCTC. A special cell to monitor the scheme has already been constituted in OTDC for this purpose.

99. Its rich cultural traditions, heritage, historical monuments, archaeological sites, tribal and traditional arts & crafts, handlooms & handicrafts give Odisha a unique identity. To protect and promote such unique cultural legacy,

My Government is constantly striving to empower and strengthen a wide variety of institutions responsible to safeguard our history through financial and non-financial support. Our continued commitment to protect our cultural heritage has opened up new insights and helped us to strategize various schemes and programs to assure our artists and artisans that we truly care for their welfare.

100. I am very proud to inform all of you that as a recognition of our uniqueness, Jawaharlal Nehru University has agreed to establish a Chair in the name of “Adikabi Sarala Das Chair of Odia Studies” in Odisha languages, Literature and Cultural studies in the Center of Indian languages. My Government has recently taken a host of measures for promotion of Odia Language and literature including the establishment of a Virtual Odia University.

101. Extending nutritional support to children in their formative years, protecting health of women during pre-natal and post-natal stages, encouraging women to avail organized child birth services by incentivizing through conditional cash transfer systems in shape of the State’s own innovative scheme ‘MAMATA’, and, promotion of women SHGs as a tool for economic empowerment are some of the initiatives of My Government to empower mother and child care.

102. To safeguard interests of children in the State, My Government has operationalized the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Odisha State Child Protection Society. My Government has also framed a dedicated policy for women and girls for facilitating the State to create an enabling environment that promotes equal opportunities, eliminate discrimination, ensure holistic development, empowerment as well as enhance capacities.

103. To better target, channelize and administer various social security measures in a committed manner, My Government has created a new separate administrative department and has named it as the “Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities”. I am happy to announce that My Government at present is providing pension to 40.23 lakh beneficiaries in the category of Old Age, Widows, PWDs and AIDS Victims. During the current year My Government has also included unmarried women above 30 years in the pension scheme.

104. My Government has provided scholarships to 39,357 students with disability during the current year. A Special ITI has been established at Jatni in which students with disability shall be admitted in the coming academic year. 3% reservation to persons with disability in Government and Public Sector jobs is being strictly monitored by My Government through a special cell created for the purpose.

Institutions/Organizations undertaking therapeutic and rehabilitative works for Persons with Intellectual Disability have been identified by My Government and provided with financial assistance to carry out such curative works. The Department with funding from the State Employment Mission is carrying out skill development training to PWDs in collaboration with the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped. 1651 Persons with Disability have been provided with financial assistance in shape of DRI Loans along with CMRF support to pursue livelihood activities by My Government during the current year.

105. Submission of applications and issue of Disability Certificate has been made online and 7.61 lakh Disability Certificates already issued by My Government.

By the end of this month, My Government is proposing to distribute 107 laptops to visually impaired students.

106. To improve the intra-state and inter-state connectivity that is vital for economic empowerment of the State and its people, My Government has taken up a number of projects for unfettered movement of people and goods. My Government is also working towards improving the inner city road networks to decongest major centers by constructing Rail Over-bridges, underpasses and fly-overs. The work on Vijayawada-Ranchi corridor, an important project for movement of goods from the southern districts is on schedule

and we intend to complete the portion passing through our State by 2019. In spite of threats from the Left Wing Extremists, My Government has made impressive progress on the 14 projects for improvement of 614.82 kilometres of road length with a cost of Rs.948.56 crores sanctioned by Government of India under Left Wing Extremism Scheme. The long cherished dream of the people of 154 cut-off villages of Malkangiri District is going to be fulfilled with the commissioning of Gurupriya bridge with State's own funding during early part of 2017.

107. Construction work of the Rs.3600 crores worth Biju Expressway, a four laned road of 650.64 kilometers connecting Jagdalpur and Rourkela through western Odisha and KBK districts has started in right earnest and is making sound progress. Besides, under State Highways Development Project, 428 Km. of State Highways have been converted to 2-lane roads.

108. Providing basic services such as drinking water supply to every household, road connectivity and sewerage that will improve the quality of life, especially for the rural poor and disadvantaged is of utmost priority to My Government. The Rural Development Department of My Government is responsible to take necessary measures to deliver this on priority.

109. I am happy to inform this August House that My Government has already installed 4,15,542 tube wells, 12,895 Sanitary wells and 10,160 piped water supply schemes in the rural areas of Odisha. Apart from this additional 17,122 Spot Water Sources, 113 Piped Water Supply Projects and 1,386 Solar Based projects have been completed this year. My Government has plans to invest more than Rs.370 crores to improve drinking water facilities in 472 villages and Rs.123 crores to improve sanitation facilities in more than one lakh households in the above villages in the 8 districts affected by mining operations and this along with provision of pucca houses shall bring perceptible changes in the living conditions of nearly half a lakh families residing in the mining affected areas. To protect rural population from vector borne diseases and to inculcate good Sanitary habits in them, My Government has constructed 7,00,000 toilets.

110. Further, to provide all weather connectivity to habitations up to one hundred population which are not covered under any other road connectivity programme, My Government has started the new “Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana” initiative and during the current year three such roads have been taken up in each constituency with adequate funds provision.

111. Empowerment of people to plan their own growth, development and welfare is the main driving principle of

My Government and to ensure this, My Government in Panchayati Raj Department implements inter-linking schemes and programs to realise such outcomes. Under National Rural Livelihoods Mission 40848 Self Help Groups have been linked with formal credit, and 573.74 lakh person days have been generated under the MGNREG Scheme.

112. After the closure of Central Sector Scheme BRGF by the Government of India, My Government has now extended Gopabandhu Grameen Yojana to all the 30 districts of the State so that the pace of development is maintained in the former BRGF districts. I am happy to inform you that My Government has already laid 546.61 kilometers of concrete roads in the rural areas.

113. My Government had set a target in the year 2014 to convert at least 1 million kutcha houses into pucca houses within 2 years, and, going by the achievements made in this regard under various housing schemes during the period, I can assure the house that My Government is fully confident of achieving this.

114. My Government has also decided to convert all kutcha houses in the mining affected districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh where nearly 50,000 affected households will be provided with pucca houses under the Biju Pucca Ghar

(Mining) Yojana. My Government is keen to ensure that work orders of all the eligible beneficiaries are issued by 5th of March and the houses completed by 15th of August.

115. To provide pucca houses to construction workers living in kutcha houses, My Government has similarly decided to allot another 50,000 houses under a new scheme “Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana” to construction workers registered with the Welfare Board for a minimum period of 3 years. My Government has already launched a Dedicated Interactive Rural Housing Portal to supervise and monitor the progress of such huge number of houses.

116. Starting from 2015-16, all the Gram Panchayats of My State will receive Rs.8850.34 crores and Rs. 7389.30 crores from 14th FCA and the 4th State Finance Commission respectively for 5 years to spend on providing basic civic services and maintenance of capital assets in the villages. In the process, each Gram Panchayat is likely to receive huge funds ranging from 25 to 50 lakhs of rupees each year on an average to spend on such works and the same is likely to be substantially enhanced each year. My Government has brought out the Gram Panchayat Development Plan “Ama Gaon Ama Yojana” to plan and implement the execution of projects under FCA. I am very hopeful that now the Gram Panchayats of My State will be

financially empowered enough to address the basic needs of the villages in the most effective manner.

117. To promote sports and develop a pool of world class sports persons is an area of priority of My Government. As part of My Government's initiative to construct mini-stadiums in every block and all Urban Local Bodies, My Government has already completed construction of mini-stadiums in 159 blocks and the remaining shall be completed as per schedule. Additionally, My Government will be constructing Block Level Sports complexes to supplement the Mini-Stadiums. My Government has also launched the Active Citizenship Program to connect youth in their formative years to the roles and responsibilities expected of them when they grow up. My Government is encouraging the youth towards adventure sports like mountaineering and I am happy to state that in association with East Zonal Chapter of Indian Mountaineering, 15 youths from the State will form part of the "Himsikhar" mountaineering expedition to Himalayas post-monsoon-2016.

I am delighted to inform this August House that My State is celebrating the 100th Birth Centenary Year of Late Biju Patnaik, the legendary freedom fighter, statesman, the great nationalist leader and Ex-Chief Minister of Odisha. In fact, this August House had earlier resolved unanimously to celebrate the birth centenary of this great son of the soil for

a whole year in the State, at the national level and internationally in the countries where his heroism, global vision and exemplary bravery made him immortal, and a legend.

On the 5th of March, My State has begun the celebrations by paying befitting tributes to Biju Babu. Hundreds of basic infrastructure projects were dedicated in his honour empowering the people of our State in disaster preparedness, self-sufficiency in drinking water and preventing post harvest loss to farmers. Homestead land pattas were distributed to the homesteadless persons empowering them with land rights, significant announcements were made towards empowerment of the Panchayati Raj institutions. This is what Biju Babu always dreamt of, a developed and empowered Odisha. He is now an idea in continuity, an idea of realising dreams of progress & prosperity, an idea of Odia self-esteem, selfless service and empowerment of our people cutting across all barriers. I am fully convinced that in the coming days of the year that are to come till My State completes a year of such celebration, a multitude of development works and initiatives of empowerment of our people in manifold ways will continue to be dedicated as befitting tributes to this idea of continuity, pursuits of development and empowerment of Odisha.

While My Government has initiated a number of steps to guide our youth to grab emerging opportunities, I seek your co-operation in supporting and supplementing our efforts in suggesting ways to sharpen our targeted interventions. The biggest challenge lies in creating opportunities here locally for our own people. The spread of internet, increased use of social media have certainly raised the expectations and anticipations of our people. Hence we need to re-orient our occupational options accordingly. While a major responsibility lies with the Government to come with innovative solutions for such changing trends, a collective and constructive support and facilitation from all the Hon'ble Members will go a long way in prudently shaping our ways for holistic development and meaningful empowerment of our State for the desired outcomes.

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

JAI HIND