The **Finance Minister Shri Raghavji** today presented the budget for the year 2008-09, with a budgetary deficit of Rs 91.43 crore. Following are the salient features of the budget:

(Rupees in crore)

Item	Receipts	Expenditure	Deficit (-) /
			Surplus
Revenue Account	34403.78	31564.00	+ 2839.78
Capital Account	-	6099.93	-6099.93
Net Public Debt	8511.71	3836.56	+ 4675.15
Loans and advances	297.55	1778.40	1480.85
Net receipt from Public	35698.26	35611.95	+ 86.31
Account			
Total transactions of the year	78911.30	78890.84	+ 20.46
Opening balance			-111.89
Closing balance		_	-91.43

- Budget for the year 2008-09 has been presented with a Revenue Surplus of Rs. 2839.78 crore.
- Fiscal deficit for year 2008-09 is estimated to be Rs. 4741.00 crore and it is 3 percent of GSDP.
- Targets set under the Rajkoshiya Uttardayitva Avam Budget Prabandhan Adhiniyam, 2005 are expected to be achieved.
- Total revenue receipts for the year 2008-09 are estimated to be Rs 34,403.78 crore, comprising of Rs 14,214.30 crore, state's own tax revenue, Rs. 10,530.74 crore of central tax devolution, Rs. 3017.70 crore of state's non tax revenue and Rs. 6641.04 crore of central grants.
- State's own tax revenue estimates are 21.32 percent higher in 2008-09(BE) as compared to 2007-08 (BE).
- Revenue expenditure of Rs. 31,564 crore has been estimated for fiscal year 2008-09, which is Rs. 5080.36 crore higher as compared to revised estimates of Rs. 26483.64 crore for the year 2007-08.
- Opening balance of Rs.(-)111.89 crore is estimated for the year 2008-09. Transactions during the year are anticipated at Rs. (+) 20.46 crore. Hence, net financial transactions at the end of the fiscal year are estimated to be Rs.(-) 91.43 crore.
- Plan expenditure of Rs. 15,634.74 crore is budgeted for the year 2008-09 as against Rs. 13,579.28 crore for the year 2007-08, which is 15.13 percent higher.
- Budget estimates in Tribal sub-plan has been increased from Rs. 2589.01 crore for the year 2007-08 to Rs. 3056.37 crore for the year 2008-09, which is 18.05 percent higher than the budget estimates for the year 2007-08.
- Budget estimates in Scheduled Caste sub-plan has been increased from Rs. 1760.55 crore for the year 2007-08 to Rs. 2180.38 crore for the year 2008-09, which is 23.85 percent higher than the budget estimates for the year 2007-08.
- Ratio of Fiscal Deficit to GSDP is 3 percent.
- Ratio of Revenue Deficit to GSDP is 1.80 percent.
- Ratio of Debt Liabilities to GSDP is 43.65 percent.
- Ratio of Interest payments to Total Revenue Receipts is 13.05 percent.
- Amount directly received by the Institutions from the Central Government has been presented for the first time with budget literature.

Gender Budget -

• Equality for women, Economic empowerment and women's participation in state's developmental schemes for 21 departments.

Energy -

- Budget provision of Rs. 1371.47 crore for Energy Sector.
- MoU with 22 companies to attract private investment in Energy Production.
 - Budget estimate of Rs. 1240.91 crore for improvement in power transmission & distribution.

Roads -

- Budget provision of Rs. 1656.50 crore for construction of roads in plan for the year 2008-09.
- 3515 roads comprising 16089 kilometers have been completed under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana.
- Missing link project for joining major roads with rural areas.

• Provision of Rs. 484 crore has been made for maintenance of roads.

Agriculture -

- Bonus of Rs. 100/- per quintal for procurement of wheat by government agencies for PDS.
- Reduction in rate of interest from 7% to 5% on short term agriculture loans.
- Relief in payment of old outstanding bills of electricity.
- Increase in rate of grant from 10 percent to 30 percent on drip/sprinkler irrigation.
- Grant Limit for the contruction of Balram Talab raised to Rs. 80,000.
- Award to most milk productive cow.
- 25 percent grant by the State Government for the insurance of milk cattle.

Irrigation -

- Provision of Rs. 1815.57 crore has been made for irrigation works.
- Additional irrigation capacity for 4.80 lakh hectare has been created in last four years.

Education -

- Establishment of College of Excellence in each of the 38 backward districts.
- Construction of 254 girls' hostels.
- Up-gradation of 448 middle schools into high schools.
- Launching of merit cum means scholarship for poor meritorious students.
- Scholarship for higher education to meritorious students.
- Scholarship for higher and professional education to the students, who are from poor families having passed 12th class examination with excellent marks. Creation of a fund to guarantee professional/higher education loans from banks to such students.
- Sudama Scholarship of Rs. 500 per annum to boys and Rs. 550 per annum to girls for study in classes 11th and 12th, coming from below poverty line families.

Health -

- Extension of Deen Dayal Mobile Hospital scheme in tribal dominated blocks.
- Arrangement of 100 furnished Ambulances under National Rural Health Mission.
- Provision of Rs. 90.31 crore for Urban Water Supply & Rs. 232.44 crore for Rural Water Supply.

Panchayat -

• Increase in honorarium of Chairman and Vice Chairman of Zila Panchayat and Janpad Panchayat. Honorarium to the members.

Rural Development -

- Distribution of wheat and rice @ Rs. 3/- per kg and Rs. 4.50 per kg respectively to each BPL family.
- Provision of Rs. 566.88 crore (state share) for creation of employment in rural areas.
- Rs. 100 crore for District Poverty Initiative Programme Phase-II.
- Rs 93.23 crore for Rural Livelihood Project.

Employees' welfare -

- Constitution of State Pay Commission.
- Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief @ 4 percent from 1-4-2008.
- Increase in Dearness Allowance / Relief as per Government of India in 2008-09.
- Pay scale to village Panchayat Secretary on 3 years satisfactory service.
- Contract salary of Compounders and women workers in Ayurvedic Hospitals would be increased to Rs. 3000/- Pm.
- Pay of Aushdhalaya Sevak would be increased to Rs. 2,500/- pm.
- Remuneration of part-time clerk to be Rs. 1,500/- pm.
- Remuneration of part-time sweeper to be Rs. 500/- pm.
- Remuneration to landless Kotwars to be Rs. 2,000/- per month.
- Honerium and incentive amount to Anganwadi workers and Assistants to be Rs. 2,000/- and Rs. 1,000/- per month respectively.
- Increase of Rs. 10/- per day in diet allowance and honorarium to Home-guard volunteers and other volunteers.
