

Sir,

I rise to present to the House the Budget Estimates for the year 2008-09.

Macro Economic Review.

2. At the All-India level, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices (1999-2000) is expected to grow by 8.7 per cent in 2007-08 against 9.6 per cent in the previous year. In comparison of this the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant prices (1999-2000) of Maharashtra is expected to increase by 9 per cent during 2007-08, as against increase of 9.7 per cent in the previous year.

State Income.

3. The publication Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2007-08 has already been made available to the Hon'ble Members. The Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at current prices, for the year 2006-07 is estimated at Rs. 4,37,035 crore, is higher by 16.3 per cent over that of 2005-06. The per capita State Income for the year 2007-08 is estimated at Rs. 46,269 as against the per capita National Income of Rs. 33,131.

Price Index.

4. The annual inflation rate based on All-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for January, 2008 was 3.9 per cent as compared to 6.2 per cent during January, 2007. The inflation rate for the period April, 2007 to January, 2008 was at 4.2 per cent as against 5.2 per cent during the corresponding period of the earlier year.

Index of industrial production.

5. The average All-India Index of Industrial Production for the period April to December, 2007 was 261.4, which showed a growth of 9 per cent over the previous year. The growth in the index for manufacturing sector was 9.6 per cent for the corresponding period.

Fiscal Stability.

6. State has achieved considerable fiscal stability with revenue surplus in 2006-07 and projected revenue surpluses in 2007-08. The debt servicing to revenue receipts ratio is estimated at 21.14 per cent in 2008-09 as compared to a one time high of 40.06 per cent in 2003-04. The debt as a percentage of revenue receipts has been declining from 284 per cent in the year 2003-04 to 215 per cent in 2006-07 and is estimated to be 198 per cent in 2008-09, which

is well below the benchmark of 200 per cent prescribed for judging the State Public Finances.

6.1 Government has shown restraint in extending Government guarantees. As a result, the cumulative Government guarantees have declined from a high of Rs. 70,125 crore in the year 2003-04 to Rs. 36,800 crore approximately at the end of the year 2007-08.

6.2. With the growth in revenue receipts at a CAGR of 18.15 per cent from 2004-05 to 2008-09 and containment of non plan expenditure at a CAGR of 6.36 per cent during the same period, the State has been able to substantially increase its Plan size.

6.3. Government has also factored in the likely impact of the impending Pay Commission recommendations while framing the Budget for 2008-09. I am aware of the tremendous challenge of meeting this liability while not permitting any worsening in the fiscal indicators and not constraining the developmental expenditure.

Control on Non-Plan Revenue Expenditure.

7. While presenting the Budget last year I had estimated non-Plan revenue expenditure at 82.47 per cent of the revenue receipts for the year 2007-08. With better expenditure control, it is now expected to be contained at 80.30 per cent. Despite additional provisioning on account of the impending Pay Commission report, non-plan revenue expenditure in 2008-09 is estimated to be at 80.46 per cent of the revenue receipts. As a result combined expenditure on salaries, pensions and interests, which had been declining for the last few years from 75.03 per cent in 2004-05 to 59.07 per cent in 2007-08 (RE), is estimated to increase to 64.19 per cent in 2008-09.

Plan Expenditure as a percentage of total expenditure.

8. The expenditure on State Plan as a percentage of the total expenditure has been low in the years 2002-03 to the year 2004-05 and was of the order of 16 per cent on an average. The same is estimated to be 24.71 per cent in the year 2007-08 and is further expected to rise to 26.76 per cent of the total expenditure in the year 2008-09.

Revenue Surplus Budget.

9. I am happy to inform the House that the year 2006-07 has actually closed with a revenue surplus of Rs. 810 crore. The year 2007-08 is expected to close with a revenue surplus of Rs. 2,759 crore. The year 2008-09 has been

budgetted with a revenue surplus of Rs. 964.70 crore.

State's own tax revenue receipts.

10. The State's own tax revenue income in 2007-08 is estimated to outpace the nominal rate of growth in the gross state domestic product. As per the revised estimates 2007-08, the State's own tax revenue receipts are estimated at Rs. 46,612 crore showing a growth of 16.25 per cent over the previous year. The growth would have been even higher but for the reduction in central sales tax rate from 1st April 2007. The State's own tax revenue is estimated to grow by 11.33 per cent to Rs. 51,893 crore in 2008-09, despite further reduction in central sales tax rate from 3 per cent to 2 per cent with effect from 1st April 2008.

Budget Distribution System.

11. I am happy to inform the House that we shall continue to give full freedom to the departments to spend money as per the approved cash flows.

11.1 Also as a result of the computerised budget distribution system, in the next year, we would allow the unspent amount in any month to be carried forward upto December 2008.

11.2 In addition, the departments have been allowed to change the cash flow for some schemes any time during the year. This would include the Local Area Development Schemes, schemes for Development Boards, all centrally sponsored schemes, funds required to meet natural calamities, Employment Guarantee Scheme and all grants given for Members of the Legislature, etc. The system now gives expenditure data on a real time basis.

11.3. Ours is the first State to implement such budget distribution system and inspite of initial teething troubles it has settled down in a successful manner.

Annual Plan 2008-09.

12. As per the discussion with the planning commission for the Annual Plan 2008-09, an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore has been fixed. Out of this total plan outlay, Rs. 22714.13 crore has been budgetted under respective sectors and remaining outlay of Rs. 2285.17 crore has been budgetted as a lump sump provision under Planning Department.

12.1 An outlay proposed for the Annual Plan 2008-09 is commensurate with the State resources and as such the plan is realistic as that of last three years.

Emphasis on Agriculture, Housing, Water Conservation and Irrigation sector.

13. While framing the Annual Plan 2008-09 special attention has been paid for improving the rate of agricultural growth and outlays for agriculture and water conservation has been increased substantially. This would help in accelerating the rate of growth of agricultural production. The allocation for irrigation sector is fixed at Rs. 5,955 crore, out of which Rs. 5,916 crore has been budgetted. Similarly, the plan size for the urban development and housing sectors has also been increased sizably. For housing, outlay has gone up from Rs. 611 crore to Rs. 1,905 crore and for urban development, outlay has gone up from Rs. 2,259 crore to Rs. 2,795 crore. The outlay for the welfare of VJNT, OBC and physically handicapped has also been increased by 50 per cent.

Enhanced provision for the District Plan.

14. I am happy to inform this August House that the size of the district plan has been substantially increased from Rs. 1,080 crore in 2007-08 to Rs. 2,000 crore in 2008-09. I have personally visited most of the districts of the State to review the schemes under district plan and adequate funds have been made available as per local requirement for completion of minor irrigation, water supply schemes, technical education and water conservation etc. I am confident that this will go a long way in strengthening the role of District Planning Committees in overall development of the districts.

New system of budgeting district plan.

15. With a view to ensure timely implementation of district plan as approved by the District Planning Committee, the system of budgeting, release of grants and according administrative approval, etc. has been radically changed. The district plan will hereafter be budgeted directly and the budgeted amount will be released to the concerned implementing agency through the Collectors of concerned districts. The powers of according administrative approval in respect of schemes other than schemes implemented through Zilla Parishad or urban local bodies will be with the Collector. The powers of Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Parishad would remain unaffected. Reappropriation within the district plan subject to usual conditions will also be carried out by the Collector with the approval of the District Planning Committee. I am confident that, this will facilitate faster and timely implementation of district plan as well as total utilisation of outlay provided to the districts.

Backlog.

16. For the last 3 – 4 years plan outlay for removal of backlog in eight development sectors, excluding irrigation, has been around Rs. 1,400 crore. The expenditure under some of the sectors has been good. I have taken a review meeting recently to expedite the work of backlog removal. Backlog of water supply development sector has been removed. Backlog of animal husbandary services has been nearly removed and Hon'ble Governor has been requested to exclude the backlog under school education development sector. For the year 2008-09 an outlay of Rs. 1,400 crore has been provided for removal of backlog for these remaining sectors. It includes outlay of Rs. 639 crore for health, Rs. 372 crore for energisation of pumps, Rs. 108 crore for technical education and Rs. 131 crore for water and soil conservation.

National Food Security Mission.

17. In the 11th five year plan National Food Security Mission is being implemented in the State in 8 districts for Wheat, in 6 districts for rice and in 18 districts for pulses from the year 2007-08. The objective of the mission is to increase production and productivity of these crops restore soil fertility and enhance the income of the farmers.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

18. As resolved in the 53rd meeting of the National Development Council, the Central Government has decided to implement Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana for the overall growth in the agricultural and allied sectors during the XIth five year plan period. The State has resolved to achieve 4.4 percent annual growth in the agriculture and allied sectors. Accordingly, it is required to prepare district and state agriculture plans based on agro-climatic conditions, availability of technology and natural resources. Upto December 2007, the state has received Rs. 128 crore as central assistance under this scheme.

National Horticulture Mission.

19. Maharashtra is a leading State in horticulture for the last two decades. The National Horticulture Mission would give further impetus to horticulture in the State. The highlights of this programme will be training of farmers for export of mangoes, grapes and pomegranates, cluster farming practices, vegetable and floriculture through green houses, imparting technology, training and participation through farm field schools. An outlay of Rs. 35 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Organic farming project.

20. The State Government is implementing Organic Farming Project. Due to organic farming, production cost to the farmers is reduced, the soil quality is improved and the produce gets good price in the market. Uptill now 1.14 lakh hectares have been covered under this project and a target of 15,000 hectares have been fixed for the year 2008-09. An outlay of Rs. 7.95 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Micro Irrigation.

21. Realising the need for optimum utilisation of scarce water resources, the Central Government sponsored Micro Irrigation Scheme is being implemented in the State from the year 2005-06. Up till now 6.51 lakh hectare has been brought under irrigation and a target of 1.30 lakh hectare has been fixed for 2008-09. An outlay of Rs. 15.46 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose. Additional amount will be made available for the scheme as required.

Increase in the price of milk.

22. Considering the demands of milk producers, the Government has increased procurement price of cow milk by Rs. 1.50 per litre and of buffalo milk by Rs. 2 per litre from 7th November, 2007. I am confident that, this decision will benefit lakhs of milk producers and also give fillip for dairy development in the state.

Prime Minister Package.

23. Dairy infrastructure in six districts of Vidharbha is being strengthened through Mahananda under Prime Minister Package. Ten chilling centres have been installed at the cost of Rs. 70.22 lakh and another 30 chilling centres will be installed shortly.

Vidarbha and Marathwada Vikas Package.

24. Milch animals and feed supplements are being supplied at 50 per cent subsidy under Vidarbha and Marathwada Vikas Packages. Upto December 2007, 7,964 cows with an expenditure of Rs. 7.20 crore and 2,811 cows with an expenditure of Rs. 3.28 crore have been distributed in Vidharbha and Marathwada respectively.

Fisheries.

25. An outlay of Rs. 233.84 crore has been provided for the fisheries sector in the XIth plan. For the year 2007-08, an outlay of Rs. 38.82 crore has been made available as State share and Rs. 33.52 crore as central share has been

provided. An outlay of Rs. 40.05 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for fisheries sector.

Inland Fish Seed Production.

26. The fish seed production is 17.55 crore from the 42 fish seed production centers. Fresh water shrimp farming is picking up momentum among the entrepreneurs in the inland sector. For availing the requirement of quality fresh water shrimp seed, a hatchery with a capacity of 4 crore seed production is constructed at Dapchary in Thane District. Work of production of shrimp will be started shortly in coming financial year.

Marine fisheries- fishing harbour and jetties development.

27. To facilitate fishing harbours 92 jetties have been constructed. There are 184 fish landing centers at coastline, out of which it has been decided to construct fishing harbours and jetties on 51 fish landing centers out of which 18 works are in progress.

Assistance to Fisherman.

28. Under the fishermen relief fund scheme, an assistance of Rs. 50,000 is provided to the heirs of fishermen who dies accidentally or go missing while fishing. I have decided to increase this assistance to Rs. 1 lakh.

Interest waiver.

29. In the year 2006-07 and 2007-08, interest amounting to Rs. 828 crore on rescheduled principal has been waived for the farmers in six districts of Vidharbha. It includes state share of Rs. 414 crore.

Crop loan at concessional rate.

30. The Government in 2007-08 provided Rs. 130 crore to enable crop loan to farmers at concessional rate of six per cent per annum. The scheme will be continued in 2008-09.

Waiver of Loans.

31. The State Government had made continuous efforts with Government of India for waiver of loans of the indebted farmers in the state. The Central Government, in the recently announced budget, has taken a historic and revolutionary decision to announce waiver of farmers' loans of Rs. 60,000 crore. This decision will benefit lakhs of debt stressed farmers in the state and would enable the farmers in the State to obtain fresh loans in future and gives impetus to achieve 4 per cent growth in agricultural sector as decided by the Central Government. I heartily congratulate the Central

Government on behalf of farmers of the state for taking this historic step.

31.1 The details and beneficiaries of this scheme are yet to be announced. The State Government will implement the scheme in right earnest. I assure this august house that the Government will not leave any stone unturned in helping the distressed farmers.

Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh interest subsidy scheme.

32. The farmers in the state have received a new lease of life due to Central Government's decision of waiver of interest. It is necessary to protect the interest of farmers repaying their loans as per schedule. Under the Punjabrao Deshmukh interest subsidy scheme, the farmers who avail loan upto Rs.25,000 in 3 tier cooperative structure would receive interest subsidy of 4 percent and those who avail loan upto Rs.3 lakh would receive interest subsidy of 2 percent if they repay their loans in time. A provision of Rs.63.64 crore has been made for the year 2008-09 for this purpose. All outstanding claims under this scheme will be settled by providing Rs.204 crore at state level. I am confident that the farmers repaying the loans of the cooperative bodies will be enthused by this decision

Vaidyanathan Committee Report.

33. Government has accepted Prof. Vaidyanathan Committee recommendations to recapitalise co-operative credit structure and an ordinance has been issued to that effect. This would require implementation of structural, legal and financial reforms. An amount of Rs. 11.50 crore has been proposed and Rs. 100 crore additional outlay will be available in the year 2008-09.

Extended relief to sugar cane growers with uncrushed cane during 2006-2007.

34. Due to bumper sugar cane and sugar production in 2006-07, some sugarcane remained uncrushed despite extended crushing operations. As a relief measure, Government provided following assistance to the sugarcane growers and to the industry.

(a) Rs. 48 crore were granted as financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 per hectare for uncrushed cane.

(b) Rs. 75 crore were given for loss of recovery due to late crushing of cane at rate of Rs. 130 per tonne for each one percent loss in recovery and transport subsidy of Rs. 2 per kilometer per tonne for transporting cane beyond 50 kilometer upto a distance of 250 kilometer.

(c) Rs. 25 crore were given as subsidy on sugar export at the rate of Rs. 1,000 per metric tonne.

Bagasse based power generation.

35. The Government is in the process of announcing a new policy for Non Conventional Energy which will increase renewable energy sources. It has already announced the policy for promoting Bagasse based power generation by co-operative sugar factories which is expected to generate an additional 1,000 mega watt of power. An amount of Rs. 30 crore will be made available for the year 2008-09 for non-conventional energy sector.

Additional outlay for Sugar Factory.

36. An additional outlay of Rs. 20 crore will be made available in the year 2008-09 for share capital contribution to the sugar industries under erection.

Increase of Share Capital to Annasaheb Patil Arthik Magas Vikas Mahamandal.

37. The authorised Share Capital of Annasaheb Patil Arthik Magas Vikas Mahamandal is Rs. 50 crore. Out of that Rs. 22.15 crore has already been given to Mahamandal as share capital upto 2007-08. An amount of Rs. 10 crore will be made available for the year 2008-09 for share capital contribution.

Vocational training on self employment scheme for unemployed youth.

38. The problem of unemployment is on the rise in the State. As per the information available with the Employment and Self-Employment Department, the number of registered unemployed candidates in the State is 32 lakh. At present industrial and economic sectors are growing very fast due to liberalized economic and industrial policy. In the light of growing demand for skilled manpower in the industrial and services sectors, there is vast scope for giving vocational training to unemployed youth and improving their employability. It is envisaged that short term skill upgradation training programmes will be conducted for the unemployed youth and employment opportunities made available to them through the combined efforts of the State Government and various lending agencies.

38.1 Un-educated, under-educated youth between 18 to 35 age group can benefit from this scheme. The training will be given through ITIs, vocational training institutes as well as private vocational training providers. An expenditure of Rs. 7,000 per beneficiary is expected to be incurred on stipend, training expenditure and tool-kit.

Right to Information Act.

39. The State Government has established State Information Commissioners' offices at Aurangabad, Nagpur, Pune, Nashik, Navi Mumbai and Amravati and Greater Mumbai.

39.1 Training programmes on the Right to Information Act have been conducted at YASHADA, Pune for all Public Information Officers and Appellate Officers. The Government has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1.13 crore to YASHADA for the training of 12,500 officers in 2007-08.

Memorial of Dr. C. D. Deshmukh.

40. The Government has befitting memorial of Dr. Chintamanrao Dwarkanath Deshmukh, a great economist and first finance of the India is to be constructed at his birth place Tala, District Raigad. Necessary funds will made available in the year 2008-09.

Assistance to Sane Guruji National Memorial Trust, Raigad.

41. Sane Guruji National memorial is being erected at Vadghar-Goregaon, district Raigad with the financial support of the Government of Maharashtra, followers of Sane Guruji and school students. The Government will provide necessary support for the construction of two projects i.e. Sane Guruji Jeevan Darshan Kendra and Antarbharti Anuvad Suvidha Kendra.

State Housing Policy.

42. State Government has published its housing policy on 23rd July, 2007. The provisions pertaining to special township policy, redevelopment of old and dilapidated buildings, cluster approach for urban renewal, joint venture schemes for redevelopment projects, redevelopment of gaothans, providing mandatory lay out for economically weaker sections/low income groups/middle income groups and setting up a Regulatory Commission have been incorporated in the housing policy.

Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme.

43. Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 101 crore as central share for the implementation of the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme upto January 2008. The State Government has released Rs. 53.78 crore to Maharashtra Housing and Development Authority under the scheme. Out of the total number of 29,265 houses sanctioned so far by the Government of India, it has been targeted to complete the construction of 60

per cent houses by 31st August, 2008.

Providing Basic Services to Urban Poor.

44. During the year 2007-08, the Central Government has made available an amount of Rs. 135 crore under Basic Services to Urban Poor Programme and Rs. 287.58 crore has been released to Maharashtra Housing and Development Authority including state share.

44.1 Under this scheme construction work of 3,338 houses out of 1,35,190 houses is in progress. It has been targeted to complete the construction of 60 per cent houses till 31st August 2008.

Housing Programme.

45. The Government had decided to undertake an ambitious programme of construction of 10 lakh houses under various schemes to be completed in the next two years for low income group and middle income group families. Under this programme, 2.50 lakh houses under Indira Awas Yojana, 2.50 lakh houses under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Niwara Prakalp, 2.50 lakh under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, 1.50 lakh under Slum Rehabilitation Authority and 1 lakh under MHADA will be constructed. This programme will benefit slum dwellers, below poverty line families, low income group and middle income group families. For implementation of this programme, resources from existing schemes of the Government of India and the State Government will be pooled. The State Government will also raise resources for the above mentioned housing programme through levy of a 25 per cent premium on developers undertaking Slum Rehabilitation Authority Schemes and grant of additional FSI for MHADA colonies.

45.1 Most of the people belonging to scheduled Caste and Nav-buddha community do not have proper houses. Considering this Social Welfare department has proposed New Gharkul Yojna. Under this scheme. A new important programme of costing Rs. 300 crore.

Grant of additional FSI for MHADA colonies.

46. MHADA colonies in Mumbai and across the State of Maharashtra have been the backbone of affordable housing for the low income and middle income families. Most of these colonies were constructed several decades ago and have consumed less than one FSI. Grant of additional FSI for MHADA colonies will enable larger houses for existing residents and large scale additional new houses to be constructed in these colonies.

Modernisation of the Police Force.

47. An amount of Rs. 157 crore is being spent during the year 2007-08 for the modernisation of the State Police Force with inputs such as better communication facilities, mobility, arms and ammunition, housing, office buildings and improved forensic testing facilities. A provision of Rs. 179.20 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Forensic Science Laboratories.

48. Regional forensic science laboratory will start functioning at Amravati from 1st April, 2008. An amount of Rs. 3.56 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Construction of offices and residential buildings for the police force.

49. An amount of Rs. 129.61 crore has been spent during the year 2007-08 for the construction of office and residential buildings for the state police force. An outlay of Rs. 195 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Strengthening of the police force.

50. A total number of 11,021 posts have been created in the Home Department for police force during the year 2007-08 at a total cost of Rs. 107 crore. In the year 2008-09 another 11,021 posts will be created. Adequate funds will be provided during the year 2008-09 for the purpose.

Mahatma Gandhi Dispute Free Village Campaign.

51. The Mahatma Gandhi Dispute Free Village Campaign has been launched in the State on the 15th August, 2007. The scheme has received widespread and enthusiastic support from all sections of society. It aims at resolving disputes at the village level with people's participation and successful villages will be felicitated with awards in this campaign. An amount of Rs. 2.50 crore has been spent on the scheme during the year 2007-08. A provision of Rs. 11.11 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Concession to the Senior Citizens.

52. At present, 50 per cent concession is available to the senior citizens above the age group of 65 years for journeys by ordinary buses of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation. This concession will now be made applicable for journey by semi-luxury buses. Further, this concession will be granted on the basis of identity cards issued by the State Government or the Central Government. I am sure that this will give relief to the senior citizens.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme Up-gradation of Specific Industrial Training Institutes through Public Private Partnership

53. The Government of India has formulated a scheme for upgradation of 1,396 Government Industrial Training Institutes into Centers of Excellence in specific trades and skills through the public-private partnership. The Central Government has included 54 Industrial Training Institutes from our state in the year 2007-08. Under this scheme, interest free loan up to Rs. 2.50 crore will be given by the Central Government for upgradation of each Industrial Training Institute. An outlay of Rs. 332.59 crore and Rs. 40.76 crore totaling to Rs. 370.55 crore has been proposed for district plan and state plan respectively for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Educational loan for students belonging to social and economically backward student.

54. With increasing cost of professional education, many eligible students find it difficult to take up courses in Engineering, Medical and advanced Agriculture studies. This problem is even more acute for students belonging to Vimukt Jati, Nomadic Tribes, the Special Backward Class, Other Backward Class (OBC) and the Economically Backward class, who find it difficult to pay such tuition fees. With the changing economic scenario wherein professional jobs are becoming more attractive, it is necessary to enable the youth belonging to these classes to become competent to get employment even to set up their own enterprises. In view of this, it is proposed to put in place arrangement through single window system to enable such students to obtain educational loans from banks. I also propose to share the burden of interest on the educational loans availed by such students. This will facilitate the students of socially and economically backward classes of the society to undertake professional education and work towards brighter future.

To creat Pradnya Chakshu Gulabrao Maharaj Chair in Sant Gadgebaba Amravati University.

55. Creation of Pradnya Chakshu Gulabrao Maharaj Chair in Sant Gadgebaba Amravati University is under consideration and for that purpose one time grant of Rs. 1.50 crore is proposed in the year 2008-09.

Additional outlay for higher and technical education.

56. In addition to an outlay of Rs. 583 crore outlay of Rs. 50 crore would be made available during the year 2008-09 for higher and technical education. This amount will also be used for updating the college infrastructure, laboratories and for equipping the engineering and vocational institutions.

Performance Highlights.

57. The State had introduced Mega Project policy which continues to receive overwhelming response and has attracted 92 projects with committed investments of over Rs. 1,14,000 crore in a short span of two and half years. (i.e. from 2.6.2005 to 31.1.2008)

Investment in Industrial Sector in Maharashtra.

58. During January, 2007 to December, 2007 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda and Letter of Intents involving an investment of around Rs. 62,583 crore in 454 projects with employment potential of 2,18,047 have been filed.

Package Scheme of Incentives.

59. I am happy to inform that, an amount of Rs. 844.62 crore has been made available under the Package Scheme of Incentives, in the current year thus clearing claims of industrial units upto end of December 2007. A provision of Rs. 400 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Power Generation Programme.

60. The Government is aware of the problems faced by the people due to the gap in demand and supply of power and is making all out efforts to tackle the situation. At present, plants totalling 2,000 Mega Watt are under construction at Parli, Paras, Khaperkheda and Bhusaval. Apart from this, the Government has also approved 1,000 Mega Watt capacity addition at Chandrapur Power Station. It is also proposed to install an additional unit of 1,980 Mega Watt capacity at Koradi. It is expected that the installed capacity of MAHAGENCO will increase by 6,650 Mega Watt in the next five years. Uptil now the State Government has contributed Rs. 550 crore as equity capital for generation projects. Apart from this capacity addition by the private sector will add another 3,000 mega watt in the XIth Five Year Plan. This will help to reduce the power shortage in the State.

Energisation of agricultural pumps.

61. By end of February, 2008, 28.28 lakh agricultural pumps have been

energised at the cost of Rs. 106.28 crore. Another 15,000 pumps are expected to be energised by end of March, 2008. A provision of Rs. 372.42 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Gaothan Feeder Separation.

62. In order to tackle load management programme, single phasing and gaothan feeder separation scheme has been taken up by MAHAVITARAN. In the first phase more than 15,000 villages are being covered. In the second phase another 12,600 villages will be covered. An expenditure of Rs. 219 crore has been incurred during the year 2007-08.

Additional outlay for energy sector.

63. An outlay of Rs. 1050 crore has been increased to Rs. 1300 crore out to energy department in the year 2008-09. It would be made available to MAHAVITRAN and MAHAGENCO in the form of share capital for Gaothan Feeder Separation Scheme and energy generation projects respectively.

Information Technology.

64. The Ministry of Telecommunications, Government of India has approved Statewide Area Network Project and released Rs. 22 crore so far. Under this MSWAN Project, all 35 districts will be connected to Mantralaya with 4 Mbps connectivity and all talukas will be connected to districts with 2 Mbps connectivity through optical fiber network.

Fast Track Court.

65. The Central Government has extended Fast Track Courts Scheme for next five years. At present 160 fast track courts are functional. Total number of 3.93 lakh cases has been transferred to these courts. Out of these 2.60 lakh cases have been disposed of by the end of December 2007, by these courts.

65.1 The Maharashtra Government is leading in implementing the Action Plan, which has been appreciated by the Central Government and the Supreme Court.

Establishment of Courts.

66. The Government has decided to establish Civil Judge (Junior Division) and Judicial Magistrate First Class courts at 53 taluka places, where such courts are not functioning at present.

66.1 The Government has established Additional District and Sessions Court as well as Civil Judge (Senior Division) court at Vasai, district Thane from 8th August, 2007.

66.2 The Government has also given an approval for establishing a branch of Bombay City Civil Court and Session Court of Mumbai at Goregaon-Dindoshi and it has started functioning with effect from 19th September, 2007.

Consumer Courts.

67. Taking into consideration the pending cases in Mumbai, consumer court, additional consumer courts will be established.

Medical Education

68. I have decided to provide following additional outlay for the modernisation of Medical Colleges and affiliated Hospitals :—

(1) Sassoon Hospital, Pune and B. J. Medical college, Pune—Rs. 33 crore.

(2) Government Medical College at Nagpur and attached Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital—Rs. 16 crore.

(3) Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagpur—
Rs. 2.58 crore and
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Hospital, Nagpur—
Rs. 1.78 crore.

(4) Aurangabad Government Medical College and Hospital—Rs. 40.88 crore.

(5) Government Medical College and Hospital, Solapur—Rs. 22.54 crore.

(6) Miraj Medical College—Rs. 13 crore.

(7) Government Hospital at Miraj—Rs. 12 crore.

(8) Civil Hospital at Sangli—Rs. 60 lakh.

(9) Nanded Government College and Hospital —Rs. 8.33 crore

(10) Government Medical College at Dhule—Rs. 4.93 crore

(11) Government Medical College, Ambejogai—Rs. 6 crore.

(12) Government Medical College and Hospital at Latur—Rs. 7 crore.

(13) Sir J. J. Hospital, Mumbai— Rs. 11.20 crore.

(14) Government Dental College, Aurangabad.—Rs. 1.61 crore.

(15) Proposed new office building of Food and Drug Administration at Aurangabad—

Rs. 2.50 crore

(16) Haffkin Institute—Rs. 2 crore.

Four Laning of National Highways in the State.

69. The State has embarked upon an ambitious programme of four laning of roads to provide basic infrastructure for the growth of agro based industries in association with National Highway Authority of India. At present 655 kilometer length of National Highway is four laned while four laning of 497 kilometer is in progress. Further another 1,127 kilometer are proposed for four laning. With this four laning, Aurangabad, Nashik, Dhule, Nagpur and Amravati will be connected by four lane roads.

69.1 The Government has embarked upon an ambitious programme of four-laning of some of the important State Highways and has approved 26 projects, costing Rs. 4,037 crore. Private investment of Rs. 3,145 crore is expected with a viability gap funding of about Rs. 892 crore from the Government. A total of 1,627 kilometers road length will be four laned under this programme.

69.2 The Government of Maharashtra is also pursuing the Government of India approval of four laning of Pune-Nashik, This will ensure 4/6 lane connectivity between Mumbai-Pune-Nashik golden triangle and result in speedy development of the region.

69.3 To ease congestion of heavy traffic in Mumbai city and to make it international city, the Government has already taken up the work of Bandra-Worli sealink-project and it is proposed to be extended up to Nariman Point. This project would be completed by December, 2009.

Additional outlay for road development.

70. In addition to an outlay of Rs. 70 crore additional outlay of Rs. 250 crore would be made available during the year 2008-09 for road and bridges work of public importance.

Restoration and maintenance of the State Government's heritage buildings in Mumbai.

71. The Heritage buildings of the State Government in Mumbai city display ancient beauty and culture and are a matter of pride for the city. To maintain, renovate and restore these heritage buildings, a comprehensive restoration programme is being undertaken. For this purpose provision of Rs. 15 crore is being made in the year 2008-09.

National Rural Health Mission.

72. The National Rural Health Mission has been launched in the country from April 2005, which aims to provide affordable and reliable health care to all citizens.

72.1 171 rural hospitals have been identified for upgradation under this mission. Each of these hospitals have been provided with a grant of Rs. 20 lakh to provide various facilities. Also, 7,549 ASHA workers have been appointed in rural areas as health volunteers.

72.2 An expenditure of Rs. 318 crore has been incurred for this purpose by January 2008. An outlay of Rs. 15.90 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Additional outlay for public health.

73. In addition to an outlay of Rs. 991.50 crore an additional outlay of Rs. 165 crore would be made available during the year 2008-09 for public health schemes. This will be utilised for providing state contribution in National Rural Health Mission and increasing the coverage of Matrutva Anudan Yojana.

Employment Guarantee Scheme.

74. A total amount of Rs. 610 crore has been spent on Employment Guarantee Scheme in the State during the year 2007-08 by end of January 2008 creating 5 crore man days of employment.

74.1 The Maharashtra Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been started in 18 districts of the State and an expenditure of Rs. 114 crore has been incurred by January, 2008.

74.2 Remaining 15 districts will be included in Maharashtra Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme from 1st April, 2008. Thus the scheme will be started in all the districts in the State.

74.3 The State will ensure that a minimum balance of Rs. 2,000 crore will be available in the Employment Guarantee Scheme fund at the beginning of every financial year.

State Eco -Tourism Policy.

75. Forests, specially National Parks, Sanctuaries and Tiger Projects are major attractions for tourists. But there were no concerted efforts made for developing eco-tourism. Considering the increasing interest in eco-tourism,

the State Government has declared eco-tourism policy. The main object of the policy is to provide local employment and facilities to tourists without harming the biodiversity. An outlay of Rs. 5 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Additional outlay for forest development.

76. In addition to an outlay of Rs. 86.30 crore an additional outlay of Rs. 19 crore would be made available during the year 2008-09 for forest development. This includes Rs. 2 crore for establishment of zoo at Gorewada, Rs. 10 crore for eco-tourism programme, Rs. 6 crore for soil and conservation work in forest area and share capital contribution of Rs. 1 crore to Van Aushadhi Mandal.

National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project.

77. National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project for 6 coastal districts of Maharashtra is being implemented in association with National Disaster Management Authority. The project cost has been revised to Rs. 111 crore and the Government of India's approval is awaited.

Additional outlay for relief and rehabilitation.

78. In addition to an outlay of Rs. 100 crore an outlay of Rs. 50 crore would be made available during the year 2008-09 for various schemes of relief and rehabilitation. This amount will be made available for disaster relief measures, public awareness, training, improving communication facilities etc.

Swarna-jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana.

79. The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana aims at promoting self employment for the families below the poverty line in order to facilitate them to cross the poverty line. Under the scheme, stress has been laid on establishing self help groups. Since the inception of this scheme, an expenditure of Rs. 891 crore has been incurred on 3.74 lakh beneficiaries and credit of Rs. 1,099 crore has been disbursed. Under this programme 3.02 lakh women beneficiaries have been assisted. An outlay of Rs. 70.14 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Centrally sponsored Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

80. During the year 2007-08, there is remarkable progress under the

centrally sponsored Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. An expenditure over Rs. 354 crore has been incurred on construction of road length of 1,073 kilometers. During the phase-V and VI, construction of road length of 10,709 kilometers connecting 4,363 habitations would be undertaken incurring an expenditure of Rs. 2,561 crore.

Pilgrimage Development in Rural Area.

81. Large number of devotees are visiting rural pilgrimage centres in increasing numbers. To provide civic amenities at such places, the Government is implementing the scheme of development of pilgrimage places. Under this programme civic amenities like internal village roads, drinking water, public toilets, parking, yatri niwas, street lights, development of gardens etc are being provided at pilgrimage centres.

81.1 Various development works are in progress at 157 pilgrimage centres in the state.

81.2 During the year 2007-08 total expenditure of Rs. 28.51 crore has been incurred. An outlay of Rs. 67.65 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana/ Back Ward Regions Grant Fund.

82. The Government of India launched the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana in the year 2003-04, to develop the backward districts. The scheme has now been renamed as Backward Regions Grant Fund. Gadchiroli, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gondia, Nanded, Hingoli, Dhule, Nandurbar, Ahmednagar, Amravati, Aurangabad, and Yavatmal districts have been selected. Under this programme an expenditure of Rs. 442.63 crore has been incurred by January, 2008. An outlay of Rs. 362 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Indira Awaas Yojana.

83. Under the Indira Awaas Yojana, dwelling units are constructed for the below poverty line beneficiaries belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, freed bonded labourers and also non scheduled caste and scheduled tribe. During the year 2007-08, 48,775 units have been completed so far and work of construction of 99,394 units is in progress. The expenditure of Rs. 184.50 crore has been incurred on this scheme upto December 2007. An outlay of Rs. 116.16 crore is proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Yashwant Gram Samruddhi Yojna.

84. An amount of Rs. 61.13 crore has been released under the Yashwant Gram Samruddhi Yojana during the current year. An outlay of Rs. 212.79 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09. This would help in completing all the works proposed under the scheme.

Gramvikas Bhavan.

85. Gramvikas Bhavan is being constructed at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai for the purpose of training of Panchayat Raj Members, officers and staff. There is a provision of 34 shops for self help groups, auditorium for training of 630 persons, workshop and 64 rooms for residential purpose. A hostel comprising of 40 rooms for women Panchayat Raj Members, officers and staff is also proposed to be constructed. An approximate expenditure of Rs. 17 crore is expected to be incurred during the first stage. A provision of Rs. 12 crore is being made for this purpose.

Human Development Mission.

86. Human development mission is operating in 12 district of the State. The progress of the same is satisfactory. Due to this the Human Development Index improved in some of the Talukas and outlay of Rs. 65 crore is proposed during 2008-09 for the mission. I hope these will help in improvement of Human development Index.

Speedy Watershed Development Programme.

87. Watershed development activities have been started in 93 lakh hectares area in the state. Under this programme work on 32,000 watersheds have been started, of which 9,000 watersheds have been completed. In order to speed up the completion of incomplete watersheds, a special programme has been undertaken in 353 talukas of the State. An expenditure of Rs. 100 crore is expected to be incurred under this programme in 2007-08 and an outlay of Rs. 122 crore has been proposed under the District Plan for the year 2008-09.

National Agriculture Development Scheme.

88. National Development Council has fixed a target of 4 per cent growth in agriculture sector. Accordingly, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has declared following schemes.

(a) Under the Farm Pond Development Programme 17,500 farm ponds will be constructed in 16 cotton growing districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada

region under the water conservation programme during the year 2007-08. The Central Government has sanctioned funds of Rs. 80 crore for this special programme. Special campaign will be undertaken to ensure that this programme is completed before the ensuing kharif season.

(b) Repairs of Ex-Malguzari tanks will be undertaken in Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Gondia and Bhandara districts of Vidarbha region during the year 2007-08. The Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 20 crore, for repairs of 685 such tanks. This would restore irrigation potential of 3,875 hectares.

Development of waterlogged and saline land through subsurface drainage system.

89. Satellite survey has indicated that 2.40 lakh hectare land in Pune, Sangli and Ahmednagar districts is waterlogged and saline. Under National Wasteland Development Programme, the Government of India has sanctioned two pilot projects for reclamation of such waterlogged and saline lands through subsurface drainage System. Considering the overwhelming response from the farmers for implementation of this programme. The State Government has proposed for sanction of Rs. 20 crore for this programme during the year 2008-09.

Aam Aadami Bima Yojana.

90. The State Government has launched the Aam Aadami Bima Yojana as proposed by the Government of India with effect from 16th October 2007. The scheme would cover the head of the family or one member of the family in the age group of 18 to 59 in all landless families in the state. The family member is entitled to get Rs. 30,000 if the earning member of the family expires before the maturity of the policy and Rs. 75,000 on the accidental death of the earning family member.

Special Component Plan.

91. I will ensure that the funds would be made available as required for the welfare and development of the backward classes. Total outlay of Rs. 2,332.79 crore has been proposed for the Special Component Plan for the year 2008-09.

Tanda Vasti Development Yojana.

92. On the basis of Dalit Vasti Improvement Scheme, the Government has

introduced Tanda Vasti Development Scheme from 1st June 2005. An amount of Rs. 23.77 crore has been made available during the year 2007-08 and a provision of Rs. 25.53 crore has been proposed in the year 2008-09 for this scheme.

Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna.

93. A financial assistance of Rs. 250 per month is provided to destitute persons in the age group of 18 to 65 years under Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna. An amount of Rs. 112.95 crore has been made available during the year 2007-08 and a provision of Rs. 112.95 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this scheme.

Share capital to corporations.

94. During the year 2008-09, share capital would be made available various Government corporations under the Social Justice department for implementation of different schemes. This includes, a provision for share capital of Rs. 30 crore for Sant Rohidas Leather industries Development Corporation, Rs. 60 crore for Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe Development Corporation, Rs. 16 crore for Maharashtra State Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation, Rs. 100 crore for Mahatma Phule Backward Classes Development Corporation. In addition to this substantial provision will be made available for Maharashtra State Other Backward Classes Development Corporation, Maharashtra State Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation and Maharashtra State Mendhi and Sheli Development Corporation.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

95. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan 40,212 classrooms, 263 block resource centres, 3,328 cluster resource centres have been constructed by December, 2007. Nearly 3.18 lakh disabled children have been provided with aids and appliances, surgeries and supports services under integrated education for disabled. During the year 2007-08, the State Government and the Central Government have made available an amount of Rs. 277.09 crore and Rs. 557.30 crore respectively for this abhiyan.

95.1 An outlay of Rs. 402.50 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 as state share.

Military Education for Tribal Student.

96. The Government has decided to sanction 33 additional divisions for tribal students. These divisions will be attached to military school.

96.1 Under this scheme, every year 1,485 tribal students will get admission in the military schools.

Mid-day Meal.

97. The Mid-day meal scheme is being implemented in the state as per the central government guidelines. Nearly 80 lakh students are covered under this scheme. From 1st January 2008 this scheme has been extended to include upper primary school students of class VI to VIII. This scheme has been started on pilot basis in 43 educational backward blocks. A provision of Rs. 342.08 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this programme which would benefit 84 lakh students.

Providing Bicycles to girl students.

98. The dropout ratio of girls has reduced from 26 per cent in 2002-03 to 20.84 percent in 2006-07 with successful implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. In order to achieve rapid reduction in dropout rates, it is proposed to provide bicycles at free of cost to below poverty line girl students studying in 8th standard in rural areas. An outlay of Rs. 20 crore would be provided for the scheme.

Sports.

99. Third Commonwealth Youth Games will be held in the State at Pune during 12 to 18 October, 2008. 71 countries are participating in these event. It is indeed a matter of great privilege for the State. Refurbishment and extension of international level sport facilities are being taken up at Shri Shivachhatrapati sports complex. An amount of Rs. 100 crore has already been made available as state share. Further an outlay of Rs. 50 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09.

Construction of Districts and divisional sports complexes.

100. A scheme of construction of sports complex at talukas, districts and divisional level has been started from the year 2003 in the State. Uptil now, construction of 16 taluka sport complex and 3 district sport complex has been completed. An an out lay of Rs. 13.11 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for completion of balance work.

Funds for Shivaji Education Society, Amaravati.

101. Shivaji Education Society, at Amaravati has completed 75 years. An amount of Rs. 75 lakh will be made available during the year 2008-09 for various development activities of the society.

Development plan of birthplace of Punya-shlok Ahilyadevi Holkar at Chaundi

102. The State Government has decided to develop and conserve the memorial of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar at her birth place at Chaundi, district Ahmednager. Special provision of Rs. 2 crore will be made this year for this purpose.

Development of Dehu Alandi area.

103. Vithal Rakhumani at Pandharpur and their devotee Tuka and Maharashtra's religious deities. The palkhi yatra on Ashadhi-Karthik day and the chanting of Gyanbha Tukaram is a rich tradition for last 400 years, and are cultural and spiritual treasures of Maharashtra. The 400th birth centenary of Shri Tukaram Maharaj would be observed in February 2009. To celebrate this occasion, ambitious area development programme would be undertaken at Dehu, Alandi, Bhandara Dongar and Pandharpur. This would include amenities for the pilgrims, improvements to palkhi route etc.

Basic Necessities for Ashtavinayak Temples.

104. Ashtavinayak temples are the important Piligrime and tourist centres in the State and lakhs of devotees from the State and country visit these pilgrim centres every year. Basic facilities such as drinking water, residence, toilets etc. would be provided. An outlay of Rs. 10 crores has been budgetted to provide basic necessities at these pilgrim centres.

Schemes under Cultural Affairs Department.

105. An outlay of Rs. 25 crore will be made available during the year 2008-09 for Cultural Affairs Department. This includes Rs. 4.70 crore for preservation and repairs of state protected monuments of historical importance, Rs. 1.55 crore for maintenance and development of 13 museums, Rs. 2.75 crore for assistance to artists, Rs. 2 crore for balance work of P. L. Deshpande Kala Academy, Rs. 15 lakh for Sahitya Sanskriti and Rs. 25 lakh for Vishwakosh Mandal and Rs. 16 crore for constructing amphi theatres at 2 taluka places in each district of the State.

Rashtrasant Shri Tukdoji Maharaj Birth Centenary Year.

106. 100 years will be completed to the birth of Rashtrasant Shri Tukdoji Maharaj in the April 2009. The Government has decided to celebrate the year 2008-09 as the Rashtrasant Shri Tukdoji Maharaj Centenary Year.

Additional outlay for tourism and cultural affairs.

107. An additional outlay of Rs. 22 crore and Rs. 25 crore would be made

available for tourism development and cultural affairs respectively during the year 2008-09.

Angria Bank

108. During exploration phase I of MTDC project, it was found that, around 120 km west of Vijaydurg, Ratnagiri and Malvan, submerged plateau exists which has 20 meter average depth which is known as Angria Bank. Considering other factors such as its distance from the mainland and other oceanic conditions it is expected that the water in the plateau would be crystal clear and it is suitable for extensive coral reef growth and it may provide habitat for variety of fish life which would make this site best among the other Indian diving destination. Therefore, it is proposed to study the same submerged reef/island. The bathymetric chart suggest that it is 39 km in length and 17 km wide with 20 meter as an average depth. If further exploration yields positive result then Maharashtra coastline may have India's largest submerged reef which will have positive influence on coastal and marine tourism sector and it could be an alternative to great diving destination elsewhere in the world for domestic as well as international tourist. Government of Maharashtra has decided to take a lead in detailed exploration of the Angria bank and after biodiversity assessment, there would be need of conducting feasibility study to establish it as tourism destination. This submerge island may have potential to change the perspectives of tourism not only in Maharashtra but also in India. After exploration and feasibility, Government of Maharashtra will submit the details proposal to Government of India to bring Angria bank under its jurisdiction so that Government of Maharashtra can manage the area due to its high biological diversity and also market it as its own tourism destination. An outlay of Rs. 5 crore would be made available for this purpose.

Extending Thakkar Bappa Adivasi Vasti Sudharna Programme.

109. The Thakkar Bappa Adivasi Vasti Sudharna Programme has been extended to the villages of Tribal Sub Plan Area, Additional Tribal Sub Plan area, MADA, Mini MADA areas and outside Tribal Sub Plan areas. An expenditure of Rs. 60 crore has been incurred under this programme during the year 2007-08. A provision of Rs. 90.38 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 under the Tribal Sub Plan.

Opening of new Hostels to the tribal boys and girls.

110. For providing better educational facilities to the tribal boys and girls, 343 hostels have been started in the State with strength of 22,733 students.

Another new 140 hostels are proposed to be started in stages from 2008-09 which would cater to the accomodation and educational needs of 36,000 students.

Outlay for tribal sector.

111. Total outlay of Rs. 1,941.50 crore has been proposed for the tribal sub plan for the year 2008-09. Funds would be made available as required for implementing the schemes for the welfare of the tribals.

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission.

112. The Government of India has started Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission in December, 2005 for urban infrastructure development. Government of India has sanctioned 51 projects worth about Rs. 7,528 crore and released Rs. 750 crore as the first installment. Maharashtra has received about 1/3 of the total grant released for all the states and thus is ahead of all other states in terms of implementation of the mission.

112.1 The State has submitted 81 detailed project reports of 61 cities under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns. The Government of India has released Rs. 190 crore for 25 projects till today. The urban infrastructure development in the state will get a phillip due to this mission.

Brihan Mumbai Storm Water Drainage System Project.

113. A project of Rs. 1,200 crore has been sanctioned by the Central Government for Brihanmumbai Storm Water Drainage system, out of which Rs. 400 crore have been released in this year. An outlay of Rs. 100 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Mumbai Urban Transport Project.

114. The Mumbai Urban Transport Project has been jointly taken up by the Government of Maharashtra, Indian Railways and Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority from the year 2002, with a view to improve transportation system in the Mumbai metropolitan region. The project includes rail component, road component and resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected families. 17,150 project affected families have been rehabilitated so far under this project.

Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project.

115. To supplement Mumbai Urban Transport Project, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority has taken up Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project, which includes elevated roads, fly overs, road over bridges, vehicular and pedestrian subways, refurbishment of Marine Drive etc. in Mumbai city. In accordance with the demand of the public representatives, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority has extended the scope of Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project to the areas of Thane, Navi Mumbai, Kalyan-Dombivli, Mira-Bhayander Municipal Corporations as well as Panvel, Vasai and Virar Municipal Councils.

Elevated Pedestrian Skywalk.

116. With a view to provide urban infrastructure facilities to the pedestrians at suburban railway stations in Mumbai and at other congested locations, elevated pedestrian sky walks of about 100 kilometers length are being constructed. The construction work of Bandra station to Kalanagar elevated pedestrian sky walk has been started and the construction work of Kanjurmarg station to Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road and Virar station has been proposed.

Mumbai Metro Rail Project.

117. Work on Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar corridor of the Mumbai Metro Railway Project has been started. Bids have been invited for construction of Charkop-Bandra-Mankhurd corridor.

High Speed Train.

118. Development of high speed train services is essential for attracting investment and ensuring faster development of backward areas of Maharashtra. It is proposed to carry out feasibility study for a High Speed Train between Mumbai and Nagpur via Marathwada. Consultant has been selected for carrying out such study, who would also study the viability of high speed train in Mumbai region.

Octroi in 'D' class Municipal Corporation.

119. Government is fully aware of the fact that the octroi interrupts the free flow of trade. There is considerable delay in Naka resulting in loss of time, destruction of perishable goods, wastage of fuel and general delay in

economic activities. After thorough consideration of this fact, Government has decided to abolish octroi from all 15 “D” class Municipal Corporations from 2008-09 and introduce account based cess, which is successfully implemented in Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

119.1 Necessary training of staff, registration of traders and preparation of required documents will be taken up immediately and a time bound programme will be followed to implement Account Based Cess in lieu of Octroi in 15 “D” Class Municipal Corporations in the first phase.

Increase additional FSI in Mumbai suburban.

120. The FSI in Mumbai suburban district would be increased to 1.33 and would be brought on par with FSI permissible in island city. For the additional 0.33 FSI, premium would be required to be paid on the basis of market value as per the ready reckoner.

Development of Mumbai.

121. Mumbai has been the focus of our attention over the last three years. Work on all the major projects has commenced. After the initial delays, we expect the Varsova-Andheri-Gharkopar Metro rail corridor to be completed by June 2010. We have also decided to expedite the remaining corridors to ensure its completion over the next eight years.

121.1 Similarly, we have taken proactive measures to see that the hardship faced by our suburban rail commuters is drastically reduced. New local trains have already started arriving. Over the next 18 months, we expect 156 new trains to run on our Central, Western and Harbour lines. This will not only reduce peak time congestion, but will provide huge relief to those living beyond Borivli and Thane. Due to our persistent efforts, the second phase of Mumbai Urban Transport Project costing Rs. 4,500 crore has also been approved and a budget provision has been made in these years rail budget. We have agreed to contribute Rs. 1,150 crore towards this project. By 2012, when this phase is completed, I can assure you that it will be a pleasure to commute on our local trains.

121.2 As part of our policy to promote public transport, we are in the process of improving connectivity on three corridors through the monorail system. We are also in the process of introducing high capacity bus system on major corridors by creating a world class bus and rail system, we believe that the demand for private cars would be curtailed. As a direct measure to discourage use of private cars, we are planning to introduce congestion

charge where sufficient public transport capacity is created.

121.3. Co-ordination of various transport systems has been one of the major issues plaguing the city. To ensure seamless travel and better planning for transport infrastructure, we have set up the Unified Metropolitan Authority.

121.4 Mumbai's Taraporwala aquarium has been a great attraction particularly for children. However, lack of investment in new facilities has led to the decline in the number of visitors. We have now undertaken modernisation of the aquarium. We expect that the actual work on this project would commence in eight months.

121.5 In my last years' budget speech, I had mentioned about the infrastructure plan for the entire Mumbai metropolitan region. We have now completed the process of consultation with all the peoples' representatives. Each of the projects under this plan would be assigned to specific agencies and its implementation would be done in a time bound manner.

Aviation.

122. In recent years, air traffic has registered tremendous increase. Currently regular flights are operated from Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad, Nagpur and Kolhapur. Given the size of the State, we intend adding more airports that can handle civilian traffic. In the year 2008-09, we shall commence development of Shirdi, Solapur, Amravati, Jalgaon, Nandad and Latur airports. Over the next few weeks, we also expect Nagpur airport to be handed over to a joint venture company consisting of Maharashtra Airport Development Company and the Airport Authority of India. The new modern airport will be spread over an area of 12,000 hectares. With this and the attached Special Economic Zone, Nagpur will become a major passenger and cargo hub in the country, creating huge employment opportunities in the region. Pune and Nanded airports are also facing severe constraints. While infrastructure is being upgraded at Nanded, efforts are being made to find alternate locations that will accommodate bigger airports. Land near Pune has been identified to develop an international airport.

Major, Medium and Minor Irrigation Project.

123. During the year 2007-08, the Government has allocated substantial amount of Rs. 5,410 crore for the irrigation projects with of irrigation potential of 2 lakh hectares. An additional potential of 1.5 lakh hectares is

proposed to be created during the year 2008-09 with an outlay of Rs. 5,507 crore. Emphasis has been laid on creating storages and about 61 TMC water storage will be created.

123.1 In the year 2007-08, the State Government is expecting central assistance of Rs. 1,100 crore out of which an assistance of Rs. 542.90 has been received uptill now under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.

123.2 An expenditure of Rs. 592 crore has been made during the last year under the Prime Minister's package. Due to this 45,860 hectares of irrigation potential is created. Irrigation potential of 1.59 lakh hectares will be created within three years under Prime Ministers' package in Vidarbha Region.

Expenditure Management in Irrigation Sector.

124. During the last Budget, I had laid out the strategy for expenditure management in the irrigation sector in order to ensure creation of maximum irrigation potential within available resources. Water Resources Department has accordingly allocated their outlay work-wise for irrigation projects. In view of the Inter-State Tribunal Award it has been decided to utilise the outlay with Krishna Valley Development Corporation only for creation of storages during the coming year.

Hydro Electric Project.

125. Ghatghar pumped storage hydro electric scheme of 250 mega watt capacity is at an advanced stage of completion. Power generated under the scheme will be available in the grid during peak hours from the year 2008-09. All the generating units of Sardar Sarovar interstate project have been commissioned and the state will be receiving 1,120 million units per year. An outlay of Rs. 400 crore has been proposed for 2008-09 for hydro electric project in the state.

Maharashtra Water Sector Improve-ment Project.

126. World Bank assisted Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project is to be completed by September 2011. As per provisions of Maharashtra Management of Irrigation System by Farmers Act 2005, approximately 1,600 Water User Associations are to be formed in the command area of 286

irrigation schemes under this project and after repairs to the canal distribution system, the irrigation management, operation and maintenance in the command area is to be handed over to Water User Associations. The rehabilitation and modernization of canal and distribution channels of twenty major and medium projects costing Rs. 290 crore have been taken up so far.

Kharland Development Schemes.

127. In the year 2007-08, construction of 48 schemes are in progress. In the year 2007-08, an outlay of Rs. 20 crore is available for completion of 15 schemes thereby reclaiming 1,229 hectares land. An outlay of Rs. 25 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Jalswarajya Project

128. With the financial assistance from World Bank, Jalswarajya Project based on community participation and demand, is being implemented in 3,080 gram panchayats of 26 districts in the state costing Rs. 1,395.52 crore. In this project, water supply has been started in 1,342 gram panchayats by the end of December, 2007. An expenditure of Rs. 154 crore has been incurred in the year 2007-08 and an outlay of Rs. 65 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this purpose.

Bharat Nirman Rural Water Supply Programme.

129. Under the Bharat Nirman Programme, the State Government has given priority for tackling the drinking water problem in rural areas including public schools and anganwadis and it is proposed to cover all habitations by end of March, 2009. Accordingly, a comprehensive action plan amounting to Rs. 2,455 crore for coverage of 22,738 habitations has been submitted to the Government of India. During the year 2007-08, the Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 404.40 crore and 14,976 village and habitations have been targeted to provide drinking water.

Rural Water Supply Scheme.

130. An outlay of Rs. 463.97 crore has been proposed in the year 2008-09 for Rural Water Supply Scheme under the state budget.

Rural Sanitation Campaign.

131. After the successful implementation of Sant Gadgebaba Clean Village Campaign, has been launched in the state. The population in rural areas has

spontaneously responded to the campaign and as a result the State is leading in the implementation of cleanliness campaign in the entire country. 2,367 village panchayats and Mahabaleshwar Panchayat Samiti have received the Government of India's Nirmal Gram Puskar at the hands of Honourable President of India. This campaign will help in improving the health, hygiene and environment in rural areas.

Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Scheme.

132. This Programme is launched by the Government of India to provide drinking water for rural area. This programme is also known as Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Now this programme is included in Bharat Nirman Programme. The criteria of allocation of funds is 100:100 ratio. i.e.the equal allocation should be made from the Government of Maharashtra to that of the funds available from the Government of India. An amount of Rs. 1,204.05 crore was received in Xth Five year Plan from the Government of India and the financial year 2007-08 an amount of Rs. 404.40 crore is received from the Government of India.

Construction of Anganwadi Buildings.

133. A new scheme for construction of Anganwadi buildings has been launched. Accordingly a provision of Rs. 38 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09.

Supplementary Nutrition.

134. More than 88 percent of Anganwadis are being provided with supplementary nutrition by the Self Help Groups and Mahila Mandals thus decentralising the child care and diet services. An expenditure of Rs. 65 crore has been incurred on this programme in 2007-08 and a provision of Rs. 111.37 crore has been proposed for the year 2008-09 for this scheme.

Self help group-Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal.

135. During the year 2007-08 the State Government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) assisted Tejaswini Maharashtra Rural Women Empowerment Programme has been launched by Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal. Under Tejaswini Programme the financial contribution from IFDA will be Rs. 115.45 crore whereas from the State Government it will be of Rs. 50.15 crore. During the 8 years duration of the programme around 62,675 self help groups including present ones will be formed and strengthened by Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal.

Construc-tion of Haj House at Nagpur.

136. In the year 2004, the State Government had taken a decision to build Haj house at Nagpur to facilitate the pilgrims proceeding for Haj from Nagpur and adjoining area.

136.1 Administrative approval for the revised estimate of Rs. 9.04 crore has been accorded for the construction of Haj house. The State Government has already made available a grant-in-aid of Rs. 4 crore for the construction of Haj house. Balance amount will be made available in the year 2008-09.

Creation of the Minority Development Department in the State Government.

137. Hon'ble Prime Minister had constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Rajindar Sachar to study the Socio-economic and educational backwardness among the Muslim community in the country. The Committee has submitted a comprehensive report to the Central Government and suggested certain recommendations for the overall development of deprived section among the Muslim community in India.

137.1 Currently, various subjects pertaining to the minorities in the state are being dealt with by different departments of the State Government. However, this is causing considerable administrative inconvenience in the effective implementation of various welfare schemes meant for the minorities in the State.

137.2 In view of the above, the Government has taken a decision to establish a separate administrative department to bring all the subjects pertaining to the minorities under the control of one department as well as to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations made by the Justice Sachar Committee. This new department would be known as the Minority Development Department. An outlay of Rs. 100 crore has been proposed for the minority welfare schemes for the year 2008-09. The share capital of Maulana Azad Alpsankhyank Arthik Vikas Mahamandal is proposed to be raised to Rs. 50 crore. More allocation will be made available as required during the year.

137.3 The additional outlay amounting to Rs. 1,400 crore as mentioned earlier in my budget proposal would be met through premium on account of additonjal FSI of 0.33 in Mumbai suburban district, better tax collection and administration as well as through additional resource mobilisation proposal to which I will now be reverting.

Now I turn to part-II of the budget.