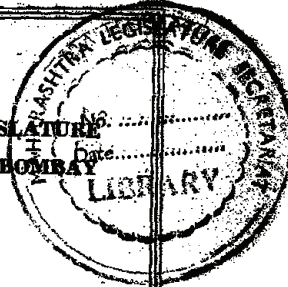




JOINT SESSION OF THE BOMBAY LEGISLATURE
AT BOMBAY



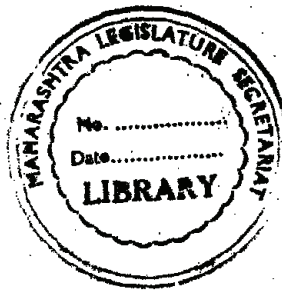
ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

SHRI SRI PRAKASA

Governor of Bombay

2nd March 1960



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Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

I have great pleasure in extending to you all a cordial welcome to this brief Session of the State Legislature. We are meeting at a time of historic importance for this State. Notwithstanding the highly successful manner in which the affairs of the bilingual Bombay State have been conducted during the past three years, it is now proposed to bifurcate it into two States, viz. Bombay (Maharashtra) and Gujerat. This special session has, therefore, been called primarily to give you an opportunity to offer your views on the proposed bill for the bifurcation of this State. You are already familiar with the circumstances leading to the appointment by the Congress Working Committee, of the nine-man Committee under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Minister, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, to consider the proposal to break up the Bombay State into two States on linguistic basis. You may also be aware of the two expert Committees of officials appointed by the State Government to work out the details of administrative set-up, and the division of assets and liabilities, and assessment of financial resources for the proposed two States. The reports of these Committees have been of immense help to the Government in giving shape to the draft bill for the bifurcation of this State. I am confident that the high traditions set by this House in maintaining a sense of justice and national solidarity, and the spirit of tolerance and accommodation that it has always evinced, will facilitate discussions in this House on the bill for the bifurcation of the State ; and I trust that the deliberations in this House will be conducted in a spirit of understanding and good-will. I am sure that the parting will be as good brothers, and that we shall continue to live as good neighbours.

In this brief Session I would not like to take the time of this House on a detailed review of administration. But since we are meeting in this House for the last time, I would like to mention only a few salient features of our achievements during the past year.

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You are aware that right from the commencement of the Second Five-Year Plan in April 1956, serious difficulties of foreign exchange, equipment and essential materials had developed which handicapped the implementation of the Plan. In the same year we had to witness the reorganisation of the States which created special administrative difficulties in view of the large disparities in the levels of development, and the variety of laws obtaining in the different constituent regions of this State. I am, however, happy to say that despite these difficulties, our people and our administrative machinery have successfully faced all odds and maintained the leading position of the State in the implementation of the Plan programmes. It is estimated that by the end of the current year nearly 73 per cent. of the Plan outlay of Rs. 350 crores will have been spent, and the spending of the balance would be within the realm of possibility in the final year of the Second Plan.

The Community Development Programme which was started on a national scale on the 2nd October 1952, and which has since undergone various changes in matters of administrative details and financial allotments, is now scheduled to cover the whole State by October 1963. Our Government has however decided to establish pre-extension blocks in those areas of the State which are not covered by Community Development Blocks during the Second Plan period, so that no section of the rural population be left uncovered by the development programme during the Second Plan. The first series of such State pre-extension blocks was started in April 1959 with 72 blocks which were followed by 77 more such blocks in October 1959. These 149 States pre-extension blocks together cover a population of 84 lakhs and 74 thousand souls in 11,497 villages covering an area of nearly 36,500 square miles. Besides, the Community Development Programme today covers 469½ blocks, in 44,953 villages and a population of over 2,93 lakhs. It is proposed to start 80 blocks on 1st April 1960 and further 80 blocks in October 1960. The Community Development Programme has aimed at an integrated development in all spheres of village life and has become the main pivot on which the rural population is turning

itself to a re-oriented way of life. Simultaneously with the Community Development Programme, schemes for all-round development of backward areas and small works of local importance in rural areas are also undertaken in the State with popular initiative through Sarvodaya and Local Development Works Programmes.

Side by side with the intensified development in the villages, it is necessary to develop among our village brethren a keen sense of citizenship and a flair for self-Government. Village Panchayats are the basic institutions in the healthy functioning of democracy. It has therefore been the policy of the Government to establish Village Panchayats in all the villages of the State. Out of the 56,620 villages in the State as many as 42,281 villages or 74.67 per cent. with a total population of over 304.89 lakhs have already been covered by Village Panchayats, leaving only 15 per cent. of the rural population to be covered during the coming year. The Village Panchayats throughout the State, are now governed by a unified law called the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958. In order to supervise and guide the Village Panchayats, the new law provides for the establishment of District Village Panchayat Mandal for each District. These Mandals have already come into existence, except in the Vidarbha area. A special feature of these Mandals is that they have on them 7 to 12 elected representatives of the Sarpanchas of Village Panchayats in the district.

Another decision of great significance in the organisation of rural life which was taken in November 1958 relates to coverage of each village by Co-operatives. Our State has been in the fore-front in the co-operative movement. The year has witnessed substantial progress in the co-operative movement, and also in the field of agricultural credit, co-operative banking, marketing, processing and other allied activities. The number of Co-operative Societies has risen from 32,000 to 36,000 during the past year, and the total agricultural credit provided is nearly Rs. 47 crores. Eight new district co-operative banks have been registered during the year, and the Apex Marketing Society has commenced

working. The Co-operatives in the State have attained a coverage of 85 per cent. of the villages and 35 per cent. of the rural population. It is hoped that by 1961, it will be possible to achieve 100 per cent. coverage of villages, and at least 60 per cent. of the population.

Unfortunately during the year due to heavy rains and floods in 21 districts of the State, and due to insufficient rains in certain other districts, the damage to standing crops has been considerable. 8,000 villages were affected, involving an approximate population of 40 lakhs. 250 human lives were lost and 25,000 heads of cattle died. The damage to houses is estimated at about Rs. 4 crores and to agricultural lands and crops at about Rs. 14 crores. Loss to some extent was also caused to artisans, traders, merchants and others. Immediate measures were taken by Government as well as by non-official agencies to organise relief including evacuation, rescue operations, provision of temporary shelters, food, clothing, etc. Police and Military aid was also arranged wherever circumstances demanded it. The floods in many cases were so sudden and unexpected that but for the timely measures organised for the rescue of affected persons, the number of human lives lost would have been much greater.

To relieve the distress caused by these calamities, Government has sanctioned relief on a more liberal scale than before. For reconstructing or repairing damaged houses, not only loans have been granted but also subsidies equal to 50 per cent. of the loss caused or Rs. 250 whichever is less. Special quota of 3,500 tons of galvanised corrugated iron sheets was also obtained for being supplied to the sufferers for reconstructing or repairing their damaged houses. Government has also sanctioned a grant of land equal to $1\frac{1}{2}$ Gunthas to agriculturists and 1 Guntha to non-agriculturists in exchange of old sites, for the construction of new houses even though the old sites might have been of a smaller size. Wells will be constructed by Government in the new gaothans on the basis of one well for a population up to 2,000, and an additional well if the population

exceeds 2,000. Similarly $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the cost of reconstruction of a school building in the new gaathan will be borne by Government, the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ th being borne by the public or the Local Board. If the latter are unable to contribute their share, loans will be given by the Government without interest.

With a view to reclaiming lands washed away or damaged by floods, Government has sanctioned subsidised rates for use of tractors or bulldozers, viz., 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. for Backward Class sufferers and 75 per cent. for other land-holders. Grant of tagai loans has also been permitted to persons who are in arrears provided they are not contumacious defaulters, give adequate security and have capacity to repay. Government has also agreed to bear transport charges, at the rate of Re. 1 per Bengal Maund for transporting seed to places where transport charges have considerably appreciated.

So far, no relief was granted by Government to artisans, traders and merchants to help them in re-habilitating themselves in their trade. This year, however, Government has sanctioned, as a special case, a grant of subsidy equal to Rs. 50 per loom to artisans who own up to 6 looms, and 50 per cent. of damage up to Rs. 50 per artisan in case of others, and loans up to Rs. 2,000 at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest to traders and merchants for this purpose.

Government has also sanctioned a grant of subsidy up to Rs. 150 to Maldharis or cattle breeders who have lost their sheep in order to enable them to purchase up to 5 sheep.

Seventy-six scarcity works costing nearly Rs. 87 lakhs, have been sanctioned in Nasik, Akola, Yeotmal and Nanded districts.

Chronic scarcity caused by draught, floods, and other natural calamities have entailed immense hardship on our agricultural community. The Fact Finding Committee which has been set up by the Government to investigate into the causes of scarcity and to suggest remedial measures, is expected to finalise its report shortly.

The programmes for stepping up agricultural production have been given special emphasis by the Government. The Rabi and Kharif Crop Campaigns which were organised last year, have proved very valuable in increasing the production of food crops. An area of 39 lakh acres, i.e. 90 per cent. of the target of 43 lakh acres, set out for the purpose, was actually covered by intensive and extensive cultivation under the Kharif Crop Campaign in 1959, yielding an additional production of the value of nearly Rs. 11 crores. The Rabi Campaign of 1959, envisages a target of covering over 38 lakh acres. I hope that such seasonal crop campaigns will become a permanent feature of the activities of the Agriculture Department.

The Pilot Scheme for intensive Paddy Cultivation which was started in five blocks covering 50,000 acres in the year 1957 has also made rapid progress. The Scheme was extended to four more blocks in 1958, and as many as 17 new blocks were taken up in 1959, bringing the total coverage to 4½ lakhs acres in 6,900 villages. These villages are served by a net work of about 2,400 co-operative societies with a membership of nearly 2 lakhs and 77 thousand persons. The additional yield on account of this is estimated at over 45 lakh Bengal Maunds valued at about Rs. 6½ crores. It is proposed to extend the scheme to 8 more blocks during 1960 bringing the total coverage to 5 lakh acres.

The production of nucleus seeds on which the entire programme of intensive and extensive cultivation depends, had made faltering progress in the earlier years of the Plan owing to difficulties in setting up Taluka seed farms. The work of setting up these seed farms has been speeded up, and 295 seed farms have now been established out of the 323 seed farms proposed under the Second Plan. The remaining 28 farms will be established by June 1960.

I would like to make a special mention of the intensive contour bunding programme undertaken in recent years by the State Government. The programme has gathered momentum essentially as a people's programme of participation

in the Plan. Thousands of farmers all over the countryside have taken part in this development programme. The success of this people's programme has earned for us the praise from no less a person than our beloved Prime Minister. The Bombay State has shown the way to the entire nation by fulfilling more than its share of the national target. As against the All-India target of 20 lakh acres to be contour bunded during the Second Five-Year Plan period, it is expected that the Bombay State alone will be able very nearly to reach this target of 20 lakh acres before the end of the Second Plan.

Other measures such as tractor ploughing, supply of pumping sets, plant protection, distribution of chemical fertilisers and preparation of local manures have also contributed to increase food production in the State. Despite the several measures, this State continues to be heavily deficit in foodgrains. For the purpose of distribution of foodgrains through the 7,000 Fair Price Shops alone, the deficit is computed to be of the order of 10 lakh tons of which rice deficit is about 4 lakh tons. Due to the Zonal arrangements, this State is completely cut off from the other surplus States which used to supply rice and wheat in the past ; and we have now to depend entirely on the supplies made available by the Government of India to cover our food deficit. The prices of coarse grains in the State shot up in September and October last because of adverse weather conditions and the small arrival in the markets as a result of dislocation of communications.

As against the deficit of 4 lakh tons of rice required for the Fair Price Shops scheme, the Government of India could allot only 2·3 lakh tons for the year 1959 necessitating the issue of only limited quantities through Fair Price Shops, and even a minimum quantity of rice could not be assured to every family. With the object of avoiding malpractices, the household card system which was already introduced in Greater Bombay and Nagpur Cities, has been extended to nine other cities, viz. Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Surat, Baroda, Bhavnagar, Kolhapur, Rajkot, Ahmednagar and Jamnagar. Steps are being taken to introduce the system in Ulhasnagar and Nasik cities

also. In Poona City, the working of the voluntary card system is still being watched. Under the household card system, the commitment for rice has increased ; and although there is a demand for the introduction of the Card System in other urban areas, it is not possible to extend the system further since our existing supply for rice does not permit of any additional commitment.

Our Government is not in favour of the Zonal restrictions on movement of foodgrains, and the Central Government have been requested to do away with the Zonal System or at least enlarge the zones. The Union Ministry is understood to be seriously considering the question of formation of bigger Zones, bringing the deficit and surplus States together. The question of introducing the State Trading Scheme in foodgrains is very much linked up with the Zonal arrangement, and therefore the question has been kept pending until the Union Government policy is clearly known.

As a result of our negotiations, the Madhya Pradesh Government has allotted 15,000 tons of wheat which has moved and been distributed. An additional quantity of 15,000 tons of wheat is also likely to be allotted to our State. There is also an offer of 15,000 tons of rice. As the quality of the rice is poor, the question of accepting the offer is still under consideration.

Our sugar position is steadily improving. The Government of India after estimating the requirement of Bombay City ordered the Deccan Sugar Factories to despatch 40 per cent. of their quota to the City of Bombay ; and this quota has been enhanced subsequently. The sugar released by the Government of India to this State is distributed equitably to all Districts on population basis. Sugar is now available to all types of consumers at reasonable prices considering the present trends.

The production of other cash crops like cotton and ground-nut has shown an appreciable increase partly due to increase in the area under these crops and partly to increased yield per acre.

The extensive programme of agricultural development in the State requires a large number of trained personnel at various levels. A two-year integrated course in basic agriculture and extension has therefore been introduced for Gram Sevaks from April 1959. There are 14 training centres for Gram Sevaks in the State of which 5 are in the Gujarati-speaking region and 9 in the Marathi-speaking region, providing training facilities in the integrated course for 140 persons—70 in the First year class, and 70 in the Second year class. The capacity for training of Gram Sevikas has also been increased from 20 to 40. Five new agricultural schools have been sanctioned during the current year—two each in Vidarbha and Marathwada and one in Saurashtra. One more agricultural school is proposed to be sanctioned for Saurashtra. The facilities for higher training in agriculture have already been increased from 485 seats to 816 at the five agricultural colleges in the State. One more College of Agriculture with a capacity of 100 seats, is expected to be opened at Junagadh from June 1960. Proposals for establishment of an Agricultural College near Dhulia in West Khandesh District are under consideration. With the establishment of these two colleges, each Division of the State will have at least one Agricultural College. The facilities for post-graduate courses in agriculture are being developed at the Agricultural College at Nagpur as sanctioned last year, and further expansion of the facilities at the Agricultural College at Poona is under consideration.

Our Government has launched on an extensive irrigation programme in the First and Second Five-Year Plans to provide more irrigation facilities in the State. With increased irrigation facilities, it would be possible to ensure additional food production, and help in the attainment of self-sufficiency in food.

At the end of the First Five-Year Plan, an expenditure of nearly 24 crores and 35 lakhs of rupees has been incurred on the several major and medium irrigation works in the State. The Plan provision for the major and medium irrigation programme in the Second Five-Year Plan which stood originally at Rs. 24 crores and 67 lakhs, has been increased to

Rs. 27 crores and 17 lakhs to accommodate the irrigation works in Vidarbha region for which the original plan provision was inadequate. During the first three years of the Plan, i.e. 1956-57 to 1958-59, a total expenditure of over Rs. 18 crores has been incurred on the various major and medium irrigation works in the State. A further expenditure of the order of Rs. 6 crores and 84 lakhs is expected to be incurred during the year 1959-60 on these works. Looking to the tempo of work on the various projects, it is expected that the entire Plan provision for these works would be utilised by the end of the Plan period. With the completion of some of the works during the Plan period and commissioning of Irrigation on certain works which are in an advanced stage of construction, an additional irrigation potential of about 5 lakh acres has been created till the end of the last working season, i.e., June 1959 over the pre-plan figure of irrigation. The Government is also very keen to see that irrigation potential created is utilised immediately. A State Water Utilisation Committee has been appointed, to study the problem of utilisation and suggest ways and means of removing difficulties in this respect. On the recommendation of this Committee, Government has allowed concessional water rates on new works in the first three years of its operation. Similarly, Irrigation Committees are being appointed on big projects, while special Mamlatdars are appointed on certain small projects to help cultivators to change over from dry farming to wet farming. Trial-cum-demonstration farms are also being established on irrigation projects to persuade cultivators to take to irrigation.

In all, four major irrigation works, viz. (1) Kakrapar Project, (2) Mahi Right Bank Canal Project Stage I, (3) Gangapur Stage I, and (4) Ranand Tank, have been continued from the First Five-Year Plan. In addition to these works, Radhanagari Hydro-Electric Scheme, which was started by the Ex-Kolhapur State has been continued in the Second Five-Year Plan. Out of these works, Ranand Tank and Radhanagari Hydro-Electric Project have been completed, while Gangapur Stage I has been practically completed. The work on Kakrapar and Mahi Projects is in full swing.

Other projects on which satisfactory progress has been made are the Kodiyar, Shetrunji, Banas, Hathmati and Bhadar Projects in Gujerat, the Bor and Nalganga projects in Vidarbha, the Purna Project in Marathwada and the Vir Dam, Khadakwasla, Mula, Girna and Ghod Projects in the rest of Maharashtra. The work on the Ukai project in Gujerat has already started.

Since minor irrigation can achieve quick results in increasing agricultural production, the minor irrigation programme in the State has been stepped up appreciably, and it is expected that the target of bringing an additional area of 5 lakh and 5 thousand acres under minor irrigation during the Second Plan period will be exceeded. About 3 lakh and 98 thousand additional acres are estimated to have been brought under minor irrigation during the first four years of the plan period, and a further 1 lakh and 72 thousand are expected to be covered in the ensuing year. With the liberal financial assistance provided by the Government and the Land Mortgage Banks, the scheme of construction of new wells and repairs to existing irrigation wells has made satisfactory progress. Against the target of construction of 35,000 new wells in the Second Plan period as many as 41,268 new wells will have been constructed by the close of the current financial year itself. The work of repairs to existing wells has slightly lagged behind, but the deficit will be made good during the ensuing year, and the target of repairing 28,000 existing wells will be fully realised. Besides, a new scheme of operation wells in banded areas has been recently sanctioned under which 20,000 more wells will be constructed during the remaining period of the Second Plan. In the North Gujerat area, where a programme of drilling tube wells has been taken up since the First Five-Year Plan period, as many as 527 tube wells have been drilled upto November 1959, of which 492 tube wells have been developed. Channels have been constructed over about 350 tube wells and irrigation has already commenced on 302 tube wells.

To help the cultivators in blasting the hard strata of soil during well construction, a complementary scheme for the purchase of 25 air compressors has been sanctioned recently. Thirty air compressors are already working in the Rajkot Division. The additional air compressors to be purchased will be distributed among the other five divisions of the State. In addition, the boring scheme for tapping water in hard ground has now been extended to all the Districts of the State which were hitherto not covered by this Scheme.

The Bombay Milk Scheme at present supplies 40 to 45 per cent. of the requirements of milk in Greater Bombay, and the rest is provided by private producers. As the milk produced in private stables is not of standard quality, it is necessary to enforce proper control over these private producers. To cover the entire milk distribution of Bombay City, Government has sanctioned the establishment of a second Dairy at Worli, with a capacity to handle 7,000 to 9,000 maunds of milk per day. The cost of the project including residential quarters, plant and equipments, vehicles, etc. is estimated at Rs. 3 crores. The UNICEF has agreed to supply free plant and equipment valued at 1 million dollars or approximately Rs. 47½ lakhs. The Dairy is expected to go into production in about a year's time, and it is expected that the problem of distribution of milk in Greater Bombay could be satisfactorily solved with the implementation of the project.

During the Second Five-Year Plan, milk distribution schemes have been started in a number of other major cities and towns of the Bombay State with a number of rural milk collection and creamery centres. Work on Pilot Milk Supply Schemes of Rajkot, Aurangabad, Nasik and Kolhapur, establishment of a milk conservation project at Rajkot with the assistance of the UNICEF, and a rural creamery at Jungadh with the assistance of the Technical Co-operation Mission, is already on hand. The Bombay State has the largest number of dairying and milk supply schemes. Availability of properly trained technical personnel is an essential pre-requisite for the successful operation of these schemes. At present adequate

facilities do not exist in this country for training in Dairy Technology. To overcome the shortage of technical personnel, Government has therefore sanctioned a Dairy Technology Institute at a total estimated cost of Rs. 11,70,000 at Aarey, for training 25 students each year for I.D.D. (Tech.) courses and up to 20 students at a time for six Certificate courses, or in all 145 students in the First year and 170 in the Second year onwards. The Institute will start functioning from July this year.

For the benefit of low-income group families in Greater Bombay, Government has introduced a scheme for distribution of doubled toned milk containing low fat and high protein at a subsidised rate of 26 naye-paise per litre with effect from 14th November 1959. Till the Worli Dairy Project goes into production, about 19,000 litres or 500 maunds of milk will be distributed per day through a series of 200 Centres located in poor and middle class areas in Greater Bombay.

Next to agriculture, electrical power generation in Bombay State has all along occupied a prominent place. Nearly 30 per cent. of the total electricity generated in India is produced in Bombay State. The Koyna hydro-electric project, which will add 2,40,000 k.w. to the installed capacity of electrical power on completion of the first stage of the project, is a monumental piece of engineering and is making very good progress. The first unit of 60,000 k.w. will be commissioned in October 1961, and the remaining three units will be commissioned in succession thereafter. It would also be possible to implement the Koyna-Sholapur Transmission System according to schedule.

The progress of the schemes undertaken by the Bombay State Electricity Board during the past year has also been satisfactory. I am glad to say that the new power stations at Utran, Kandla and Porbandar have been commissioned and that work on the construction of the new power houses at Paras and the augmentation of the capacity of the existing power station at Khaparkheda is also going ahead. It is hoped that in the next few months the last two stations will also be put into operation.

Government has been making every effort to increase the power supplies to rural areas and for this purpose the programmes for rural electrification in the different regions of the State have been expanded. Power supply for lift-irrigation and for tube wells is also being increased.

One of the difficulties experienced in the implementation of power schemes is the shortage of foreign exchange. Only recently it was possible to secure import licences for increasing the capacity of the Shahpur power station, and for undertaking the supply of power from the Ahmedabad region to Surendranagar in Saurashtra. We are grateful to the Central Government for such help.

Considerable attention has already been given to the schemes for increased power supplies in the Third Five-Year Plan, and it is proposed to undertake during the coming year preliminary work on some of the major schemes. The State Government is particularly alive to the urgent need of establishment of a new Central Power Station near Cambay and the installation of another 30 MW set at Khaparkheda to meet the load demands of the areas to be served by these projects. These schemes have been technically cleared by the Central Water and Power Commission, and the final sanction of the Planning Commission is expected to be issued shortly.

Nearly 70 per cent. of the electrical power generated in the State is consumed by the industry which in this State has maintained a place of pride. The potentialities of further industrial development of the different areas of the State have been studied by our Government, and I am glad to say that after careful consultations with all the interested bodies, it has been possible to bring out a Master Plan of Industrial Development of the State. It is hoped that this document will be of use to entrepreneurs who will be seeking new lines of industrial development in the State based on the facilities and resources available in each area. I should however like to add that by its very nature, the document is not a rigid one and Government would certainly give weight to

the judgment of the entrepreneur regarding the best location of the undertaking which he may like to set up. Government will also be glad to have suggestions from institutions and persons alike for provision of specific facilities in particular areas for the promotion of industrial development in a co-ordinated and rapid manner.

Although the general index of industrial production has maintained a steady upward trend since the commencement of the First Five-Year Plan, there has been some decline in the rate of growth since I addressed you last year, mainly because of the restrictions on imports of raw materials and accessories. The Cotton Textile industry which is the major industry in Bombay State was seriously affected. With a view to helping the cotton textile mills in distress, Government has formulated a scheme which envisages financial assistance for working capital, and rehabilitation and modernisation of machinery. A few units have been given financial assistance under this scheme through the State Bank of India under the State Government guarantee, and the applications of others are under consideration.

The Model Mill at Nagpur which was closed in April 1959, was re-opened in October 1959 on the appointment of an authorised Controller under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. Government has also arranged for working finance for the running of this mill.

In my last Address, I had referred to the expanded programme of road development in the State to meet the growing needs of our developing economy. The Government has since sanctioned a further additional programme of Rs. 35 lakhs for construction of roads in the Konkan region which has been backward in communications, and about Rs. 71 lakhs for black topping of roads in Saurashtra. In the Marathwada Region, the original Plan provision which was a crore and 50 lakhs odd has now been increased to over three crores, and a very much larger programme of road construction has been taken up and is being implemented. Work on the construction of the West Coast Road and the Express

Highways starting from Bombay has been making good progress. The West Coast Road covers 86 miles in Kolaba District and 192 miles in Ratnagiri District. Of this, 76 miles in Kolaba District have already been concreted. Work on the remaining 10 miles in that District and 54 miles in Ratnagiri District is in progress. Work on almost all the sections of the Express Highways is in progress and is likely to be completed by the end of the Second Plan period. Other important achievements include construction of bridges across Pushpavati, Khari, Rupen and Saraswati rivers on the Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Sidhpur road, a bridge across the Purna river at Navsari on National Highway No. 8, and a bridge on the Kundalika river at Roha on the Roha-Ashtari Road.

The large number of minor and intermediate ports which serve as the gateways for trade and commerce on the entire coast-line of the State, have now been divided into ten groups of ports for convenience of administration. Government has also decided to take over the administration of the minor ports in the former Bombay area from the Collector of Central Excise, and accordingly 27 ports have been taken over. The remaining forty-five ports will be taken over shortly. An additional port development programme costing Rs. 40 lakhs has been approved for development of minor ports in the Konkan region.

In the field of Social Services, Bombay State has already taken long strides and is in the forefront particularly in the provision of facilities for education, housing, and welfare services.

The percentage of literacy in the State on the basis of 1951 census, is 21.64 which compares favourably with the All-India average of 16.61. With the rapid growth of the institutions for primary education in the State during the past few years, over 55 per cent. of the children of the age group 6 to 12 are now in our primary schools. In the coming year the final stage of introduction of compulsory primary education for the age group 7 to 11, in all the villages in the areas of former Bombay with a population of 500 to 999 will

have been completed. In Vidarbha, 2,200 more primary teachers and 26 Assistant Deputy Educational Inspectors will be appointed in the coming year. In Marathwada, 630 primary teachers have been sanctioned this year to make up for the shortfall of previous years, and 412 more teachers will be appointed during the next year. In Saurashtra and Kutch, 400 new classes and 30 schools will be opened in the ensuing year.

Special efforts have been made to increase the facilities for training of primary teachers. Twenty additional Primary Training Colleges with a capacity for training 100 teachers in each college have been opened during the current year and twenty more colleges are expected to be opened during the coming year. Besides, one training college for women teachers will be opened at Idar in Sabarkantha District in the coming year. The existing Primary Training Colleges have also been strengthened and eight additional divisions of 40 students each have been opened in these colleges. The rate of grants to non-Government training colleges has been liberalised in order to encourage private effort in the field of training.

The progress of conversion of primary schools into basic schools has been rather slow. So far, about 15 per cent. of the primary schools in the State have been converted into basic, whereas the All-India target is 25 per cent. As the conversion of all primary schools into basic will take a long time, it is now proposed to orient the primary schools to basic schools, so that by the end of the next year all primary schools will be either full-fledged basic or oriented basic schools.

You may be aware that the scales of pay of the secondary teachers have been recently up-graded in accordance with the recommendations made by the Integration Committee for Secondary Education. The rates of grants to non-government secondary schools have also been revised to enable the schools to adopt the revised scales. It is hoped that this step will help in raising the general standard of secondary education in the State.

Government has also accepted the recommendation of the Integration Committee regarding the teaching of English, and has decided to introduce this subject on a voluntary basis in Standards V to VII of non-English medium schools in the Marathi-speaking region of the State from the ensuing academic year. For Gujerat, the decision has been stayed pending formation of the new State. The question of introducing higher Secondary School Examination in areas other than Vidarbha and Marathwada is being examined by a Committee consisting of representatives of all the Universities and the Secondary Boards.

In the field of higher education, facilities for post-graduate studies have been expanded at the Institute of Science at Bombay, the Vidarbha Mahavidyalaya at Amravati, and at the College of Science at Nagpur. Additional divisions have been opened in the Government Colleges in Saurashtra and in one College in Bombay. Besides, nine additional non-government Colleges have been opened in different parts of the State during the current year.

The facilities for technical education in the State have been considerably expanded. There are now 425 technical institutions of various types including 10 Colleges, 16 polytechnics, 62 technical high schools and multi-purpose schools, 22 industrial training institutes, and 315 other technical institutions providing facilities for training over 40,000 students annually. With the rapid industrialisation of our country, there will still be a shortage of technical man-power to man our various projects. Facilities for technical education, therefore, need further expansion to meet our country's demand for technical personnel. With this end in view, the Nagpur Engineering College will be expanded and up-graded, and another Engineering College will be started at Aurangabad during the ensuing year. Similarly, five new Polytechnics including two out of donation catering for diploma courses, will be established during the coming year with an intake of 780 students. The question of providing technical courses in a few more High Schools is also under consideration. Training facilities under Craftsman Training Scheme are also being expanded further. It is proposed to provide about 500 additional

seats under the Craftsman Training Scheme during the ensuing year.

Provision of better facilities for curative and preventive health services, and improvements in the standards of sanitation and hygiene has gradually brought down the death rate. The infantile mortality rate has also declined appreciably. It is however very necessary that the rate of growth of population which in our country is estimated at 1.89 per cent. per annum, is kept under control, if we have to come out of the vicious circle of poverty and low potentiality for saving for fresh investments. The programme of Family Planning has now taken a firm root in the Bombay State. The active co-operation of social bodies and voluntary organisations and financial assistance from the Government of India have played a prominent part in implementing this programme in our State. There are at present 82 Urban and 155 Rural Family Planning Centres, which are in receipt of grant-in-aid from the Government of India. Sterilization as a method of Family Planning has been accepted. As sterilization is a sure method to put an effective control on future live births, Government has decided to give an impetus to the programme of sterilization by providing special surgical facilities at the District Head-Quarter Hospitals where services of expert Surgeons would be made available. The scheme which is under consideration also envisages monetary incentives to persons having an income of less than Rs. 150 per mensem, which will be Rs. 15 per each vasectomy case and Rs. 25 per each tubectomy case. Such of the public employees who intend to take the benefit of the scheme are proposed to be given special casual leave not exceeding six days. Surgeons and other Hospital Staff who will be entrusted with this work may also be given some remuneration for the purpose.

The programme for the expansion of the facilities for hospitalisation and dispensaries has progressed satisfactorily. Considerable progress has been made in the work of the reconstruction of the J. J. Group of Hospitals in Bombay City. A pædiatric centre is also being established in collaboration with UNICEF at this Hospital.

The work of reconstruction of the Civil Hospital Sangli, is in progress. Plans and estimates for the reconstruction of the Civil Hospitals at Mehsana and Ahmednagar have been approved and the work is expected to start shortly. Work on improvements to existing buildings at the Civil Hospital at Satara and remodelling of the Civil Hospital at Godhra is in progress. Government has also decided to reconstruct the Civil Hospital at Kolhapur and proposals for acquisition of the site are under consideration.

An Ayurvedic Hospital has already been constructed and has started functioning at Jamnagar. The work of construction of Ayurvedic Hospital, Nagpur, and Nature Cure Hospital, Junagadh, has also been taken in hand.

Plans and Estimates for constructing a new Mental Hospital and a Leprosy Hospital at Ahmedabad have been approved by Government and the work on both the hospitals is likely to be started during the current year.

Facilities for treatment of T. B. patients and for control of T. B. have also been increased both by adding T. B. Wards at existing hospitals and by liberal grants to private institutions. One more T. B. Hospital with 150 beds is proposed to be established at Jamnagar during 1960-61, and T. B. Wards with 50 beds will be opened at the Civil Hospitals at Wardha, Amravati, Yeotmal, Chanda and Akola.

These and other measures for treatment of epidemic and infectious cases require a large number of trained doctors and nurses. For this purpose the number of admissions at the Grant Medical College, Bombay, has been raised from 120 to 150 since June 1959. Clinical courses have been started at the Medical College, Jamnagar, from June 1959. Post-graduate degree courses in Prosthetic Dentistry, Orthodontia and Periodontia have been started at the C. E. M. Dental College in Bombay from August 1959. A large number of dental patients are taking advantage of the attached Dental Hospital, which has become very popular. Over 780 doctors, 400 nurses, and nearly 700 nurse-midwives are expected to be

trained in 1960-61 at the several institutions in the State. In order to improve the teaching in Ayurvedic System of Medicine, work on preparation of text books, and establishment of a reference unit and library is in progress under the auspices of the Board of Research. Besides the research schemes which have been undertaken by the Board itself, the clinical research in Panch Karma system of treatment is also being carried out by a research institute with the help of the grant given by the State Government. Also, provision for the training of Vaidyas in Ayurved in Saurashtra Region has been made.

The Public Health Organisation has been reorganised in most of the Districts now, and the scheme of District Health Organisation will be extended to the remaining districts also.

With a view to providing effective measures for preventing adulteration of articles of food, Government has brought all the municipal areas in the Bombay State within the ambit of the prevention of Food Adulteration Act. The State Government has also framed draft rules for effecting stricter implementation of the provisions of the Act and it is expected that these rules will be finalised shortly.

The Government has been giving special attention to the problem of acute housing shortage in the important cities and towns in the State. Last year, a careful study was made of the problems relating to congestion of traffic, deficiency of open spaces and playing fields, shortage of housing and over-concentration of industry in the metropolitan and suburban areas of Bombay City, and all efforts are being made to implement the recommendations made by the Study Group in this behalf. A special scheme for relief of persons dishoused as a result of calamities like house collapse, fires, etc., in Greater Bombay has been undertaken. Under this scheme about 200 houses will be constructed annually in Greater Bombay to provide alternative accommodation to the victims.

The large number of about 25,000 families living unauthorisedly in hutments in Bombay City and suburbs have also to be provided with some accommodation within their limited means. For the benefit of these families it is proposed to construct 5,966 tenements in the first instance in open Government lands in Greater Bombay. A beginning has been made on this scheme as it has been approved by the Government of India.

Besides these two schemes, a new scheme for middle-income groups within the income range of Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per mensem will be undertaken. To start with, suitable houses will be constructed by Government in some of the important cities of the State for the benefit of the middle-income group families. Other schemes of housing for low-income groups and industrial workers are proceeding satisfactorily.

For Government servants, a special programme of construction of 1,592 tenements in Greater Bombay for class III and class IV servants has been undertaken in three stages, of which 592 tenements have already been completed, 400 more tenements will be ready within a month's time and work on the remaining 600 tenements has started recently. Besides, an additional programme of construction of quarters for 444 class III servants and 464 class IV servants in Bombay City is proposed to be undertaken this year. Of the 152 flats at Haji Ali Park in Bombay City for class II Officers of Government, 38 flats are ready and the remaining 114 flats will be ready shortly. It is also proposed to take up an additional programme of 38 more flats for class II Officers in Bombay City this year. Work on construction of 42 flats for class I Government Officers at the Back Bay Reclamation near the Sachivalaya, has also started in full swing and these flats are expected to be ready by August this year. An extensive programme for construction of quarters for class III and class IV Government servants has also been undertaken in Poona, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Nasik, Surat, Sholapur and Himatnagar.

The reorganisation of the State in November 1956 imposed a heavy burden on this House in the matter of enacting various laws including legislation relating to the unification of the different laws obtaining in the different constituent regions of the State. Unification of laws has, however, two aspects, namely, substance and form. The former is of essence and may be attained all at once or by stages, and for this purpose laws relatively more important and urgent were first handled. Accordingly, unification laws enacted so far are 82. Laws still to be unified are 74 Bombay Acts and 51 Central Acts and some special laws in force in limited areas of the State, but many of these laws are relatively less urgent and less important than those already unified. The bulk of the more important laws has thus been unified. The proposed bifurcation of the State will not affect the need for unification of the laws left over as aforesaid. In the new State also the process of unification of laws will, therefore, have to be continued and completed as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the immediate work due to the impending bifurcation of the State, for example, adaptation of laws, determination of corresponding authorities, questions relating to inter-State corporate bodies, etc., will have to be attended to. In view of this, only important measures which ought to be enacted before bifurcation will be undertaken in this session.

The work of the preparation of the Third Plan is in hand. A number of studies have been made by Official Study Groups and their reports have now become available. You as members of the respective Development Boards and Divisional Councils, will have to devote your urgent attention to this matter, and help the Government in giving final shape to the Third Plan.

I am happy to say that with your co-operation and the co-operation of the people of the State whom you represent, it has been possible to surmount numerous difficulties in the way of social and economic development of the State. The spectacular success which the Small Savings Campaign has achieved, is an outstanding testimony to this. I would however like to add that although we were able to secure

a net investment of nearly Rs. 24 crores in 1958-59 against the target of Rs. 26 crores for that year, we have yet to make up for the short-falls in Small Savings collections in the earlier years. Great efforts will therefore have to be made to fulfil our entire target for the Plan, and I am sure the co-operation of all will be readily forthcoming for this purpose. As an incentive to increasing the rate of investment in Small Savings, Government has decided to sanction additional grants for Local Development Works to those Districts which exceed their respective targets of collections. I am confident that we shall fulfil our targets of Small Savings collections and set an example to other States in the country. Every target that we achieve under the Plan is a valuable brick we are laying in building up the walls for defence against poverty and squalor; and with the will and determination of our people, no one can deny that we should in course of time complete this edifice in which peace, prosperity and good-will shall prevail. In this task as well as in the immediate deliberations which will occupy you in this session, I wish you all success.