



ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

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GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA

JOINT SESSION OF THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE AT BOMBAY

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Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

I welcome you to this Budget Session of the State Legislature in 1983. A new Ministry has recently been formed in the State. My Government's first priority is to create a sense of confidence in the public mind that the State's administration is totally wedded to public welfare and upholding the highest traditions of the State. The new Ministry has already started devoting itself earnestly to the task of building a prosperous Maharashtra.

2. The most important task which the Government is currently facing is the task of combating the effects of the severe drought which the State has been passing through. I have personally visited some of these affected areas. The Chief Minister also studied the situation after an extensive tour of the various affected areas.

3. There were inadequate rains in the kharif season and even in the rabi season there were no adequate rains. Failure of rains has already adversely affected agricultural production, and not only in rural areas but also in urban areas of the State, a grave and emergent problem of drinking water has arisen. In addition, in rural areas necessity of creating more employment opportunities has arisen.

4. The drought is widespread. It has affected about 10,000 villages and covers 20 districts. Even in early August when the signs of the affliction were becoming evident, the State Government took measures to save the kharif crops and to increase the rabi production. Government also issued orders to reserve adequate water for meeting the demand of domestic use, thermal stations and industrial purposes.

5. The State Government submitted the first memorandum in the month of September to the Government of India detailing the various measures that it proposed to take to combat the drought situation. These measures included generation of additional

employment in the rural areas, measures for providing adequate drinking water supply through bore wells, through temporary pipe water supply schemes and through acceleration of the completion of permanent water supply schemes. The measures included the care of the milch and farm animals, supply of their fodder, and the care of the afflicted human population from public health and nutrition point of view. I am glad to say that the Government of India, considering the situation, has approved an advance Plan assistance of Rs. 56.38 crores.

6. Thereafter, having regard to the severity of the drinking water problem, in January 1983 the State Government has sought a further assistance of Rs. 27.41 crores from the Centre for augmentation of the drinking water supply in the rural as well as in urban areas. While dealing with this problem, the State Government has decided not to make any distinction between drought and non-drought villages but to ensure supply of water, through various measures, wherever the problem is going to be acute this summer. For this purpose, it has been resolved to make available to the villagers facilities of water near the village, after relaxing, as and when needed, the present criteria governing the water supply scheme. In pursuance of this, Government has recently sanctioned a special emergency measure. To implement this measure, the Divisional Commissioners have been given special powers.

7. You will notice that while dealing with the drinking water problem, Government has this year made a distinct policy change. As a result even if there may be normal crop conditions in any villages, Government has decided to give special assistance to such of the villages where there is shortage of drinking water. It is my Government's firm resolve to ensure in the affected areas adequate drinking water supply as near as possible to the places of habitation and make all-out efforts to mitigate the severity of the affliction. From this point of view, Government has taken powers from the 26th February 1983 by an Ordinance to requisition water supply for drinking purposes from private wells, tanks and other storages of water and to supply it by pipelines laid through private lands.

8. The Planning Commission has sanctioned a Plan of Rs. 1,500 crores for the State for the year 1983-84. This is the

largest plan for any State in the country. Nearly 50 per cent. of the Plan outlay has been provided for power and irrigation. Similarly, Rs. 314 crores for anti-poverty programme, Rs. 110 for minimum needs programme, Rs. 400 crores for social and community services and Rs. 180 crores for agricultural and allied services have been earmarked. I am confident that this plan would give a momentum to economic development of the State and particularly help to ameliorate the social conditions of our brethren, who constitute the weaker sections of the community.

9. The Employment Guarantee Scheme is one of our prestigious schemes. This scheme has been very useful in providing employment on a large scale in rural areas during drought conditions. This will not only provide employment opportunities, but we feel sure that it would also increase productive assets in the State. For this, Government would make efforts to streamline the scheme by introducing greater discipline in its implementation.

10. Government has announced various special programmes for the rapid development of Marathwada, Vidarbha, Konkan and hilly regions. The implementation of these programmes in a time-bound manner is being continually monitored at the State and Divisional levels.

11. There has been a growing realisation that for planned development in all the parts of districts, the planning process might have to be carried further down in order to reflect adequately the local needs. It has, therefore, been decided to introduce block level planning from 1983-84 for which block level committees are being set up.

12. The Planning Commission has selected Wardha district for the preparation and adoption of a model pioneering effort of planning on Gandhian lines. A plan which can be replicated elsewhere is under preparation for the Wardha district. The main thrust of this plan is to bring nearly 60,000 poor families in the district above the poverty line by the end of this decade through "Work for all" and "Health for all" programme. This plan is proposed to be implemented from 1983-84 onwards and it is expected that Central assistance also will be available for its implementation.

13. Our Plan is also integrally related with the implementation of the new 20-Point Programme announced by our Prime Minister in January 1982. As the Prime Minister announced at the time, "It is in our hands to maintain the improvement to lighten the burdens of our millions. This programme is for each one of you and for this Nation which is ours to serve, to cherish and to build." Keeping these high sentiments of our country's leader firmly in view, the Plan has all the components for achieving the minimum social and economic requirements, particularly for the weaker sections. Approximately Rs. 1,100 crores are earmarked in the 1983-84 Annual Plan for achieving the targets set in the revised 20-Point Programme. I am sure the active participation of the people in different spheres will not be lacking.

14. The State has identified 87 blocks in 13 districts of our State as drought prone. For Central assistance, however, only 42 blocks were accepted upto 1981-82. From 1982-83, there are 53 such blocks. The State Government has moved the Central Government for inclusion of additional 15 blocks.

15. The main objective of the DPA programme is to bring about integrated development on water shed basis, with emphasis on the optimum use and maximum storage of water. The programme includes soil and water conservation measures, development of forestry and pastures, live-stock and fishery, etc. . In all 125 water sheds have been identified, with 15,000 hectares covering about 1,500 villages, which will be benefited by this programme.

16. The other important major programmes under the DPAP concern agriculture, minor irrigation and cattle and dairy development sectors, and these sectors accounted for 82 per cent. of the total expenditure of Rs. 55.72 crores during the period 1974-82. Under the DPAP during 1982-83, an outlay of Rs. 9.46 crores was provided.

17. The main objective of I.R.D.P. is to provide productive, income-generating packages to rural families below the poverty line. It is estimated that about 30 lakh identified families in the rural areas of the State are intended to be included under this programme. These families can engage themselves in productive endeavours connected with sectors of irrigation, animal husbandry, agriculture, industry, employment and trade, etc. .

18. Government has undertaken since October 1982, a major programme of construction of wells on the holdings of small and marginal farmers to provide them irrigation facilities. It is proposed to continue this programme during the next year also.

19. The delayed, erratic and inadequate monsoon rains in many parts of the State had an adverse impact on the sowing of the kharif crop. As a result nearly 14 lakh hectares out of a total kharif area of 124 lakh hectares remained unsown or failed in germination. In order to compensate this loss a special scheme was drawn, as a result of which about 10 lakh hectares, out of the 14 lakh hectares, were brought under cultivation during the rabi season.

20. Irrigation has been given a high priority in this State. The plan outlay for 1982-83 was Rs. 277 crores in the State sector and the 1983-84 plan envisages an outlay of nearly Rs. 326 crores. Additional potential of 1.25 lakh hectares is expected to be created by the end of June 1983. An important recent development is that a loan of 4.4 crore dollars has been received from the U. S. AID towards the execution of 13 medium irrigation projects in the State.

21. In order to step up effective utilisation of the irrigation waters and at the same time to ensure equitable distribution to all the beneficiaries, the State has been promoting the Warabandi system. This system will be accelerated during 1983-84.

22. Government has also decided to take up a phased programme for the development of khar lands in the State. This programme has a great significance to the poor farmers in the Konkan area.

23. In respect of rural industrialisation and economic development, co-operative sugar industry in our State has a very important place. There is a constant demand from the rural population for establishment of new sugar factories. The Government of India has so far cleared 14 proposals and Government is trying to get sanction for remaining proposals. Efforts are also being made for the establishment of new Spinning Mills after considering the resources availability.

24. In order to enable the agriculturists to obtain remunerative prices for their commodities, it is essential that suitable storage facilities are provided. Government has, therefore, decided to construct a net-work of rural godowns in the State under the

co-operative rural storage projects sponsored with the assistance of World Bank and under the scheme of national grid of rural godowns sponsored by the Government of India. There is a proposal to construct 2,400 godowns under the scheme. A large number of them are under construction, and it is expected that about 1,000 of them will be completed before the ensuing monsoon.

25. Handloom and powerloom industry has a very substantial employment potential, which is next to agriculture. There are about 77,000 handlooms in our State providing employment for about 2.25 lakh families. The people in this industry are mostly drawn from the weaker sections and as such the handloom industry has been given a special place in the 20-Point Programme. For the development of this industry, the State Government implements various schemes involving a provision of about 18 crores of rupees. Similarly, Government would make efforts to solve the problems of powerloom industry.

26. You are aware that the Cotton Monopoly Scheme has been extended upto June 1984. It is expected that under this scheme about 18 lakhs of bales will be procured during the current cotton season.

27. Dairy development in the State has made significant strides in 1982-83. In the ensuing year, the Plan for Operation Flood II will be implemented in nearly 17 districts and for this purpose an outlay of Rs. 88 crores is expected to be incurred. The implementation of the plan has commenced in Solapur, Osmanabad, Latur, Aurangabad, Jalna and Buldana districts. In 1983-84, it will start in Pune, Nashik, Beed and Yavatmal districts. The Fourth Dairy with an eventual capacity of 4 lakh litres per day is nearing completion in Bombay at Goregaon. On completion, the dairy will be handed over to the State Milk Federation, which is the apex co-operative.

28. The work of expansion of the dairy at Miraj from 1 lakh to 2-lakh litres capacity per day and of increasing the capacity for conversion to skim milk powder from 10 to 20 metric tonnes a day is in full swing and the project is expected to be commissioned in 1983-84.

29. For increasing production of milk, a massive programme of cross breeding using frozen semen technology has been undertaken. Similarly, the Veterinary Services are also being expanded.

30. The marine fishing fleet of the State consists of about 9,000 non-powered crafts and 4,000 mechanised vessels. In order to regulate marine fishing in the State, an Act has been enacted to earmark particular area near the coast for fishermen. Under this Act, the demarcation of areas will be done soon on the recommendations of the District Advisory Committees. Government has also taken a decision to introduce a scheme of Life Insurance for the welfare of all such fishermen and the State and the Central Governments will contribute towards the premia.

31. Steps are being taken to increase fish production through brackish water fish culture and development of inland fisheries. The pilot project for brackish water fish farming is expected to commence operations at Ratnagiri before the onset of the next monsoon. A long-term project to avail of institutional finance for full exploitation of inland fisheries potential available in the State is being formulated.

32. Government continues to pursue the strategy of industrial dispersal. Concentration of industrial activity in Bombay Metropolitan Region is being guarded against. Appropriate industrial locational policy is being implemented, accelerating the pace of industrial development in backward region through incentives and promoting a programme of self-employment in industrial ventures for creation of employment opportunities.

33. In its efforts for industrial dispersal, the two agencies of Government SICOM and MIDC have played the major role. SICOM which administers the Package Scheme of Incentives has, since the inception of the Scheme in 1964 till December 1982, been able to commit 1,888 units to the backward areas. Thereby this Corporation has helped catalysing an investment of Rs. 1,308 crores and creating employment opportunities for about 1.64 lakh persons. MIDC, which is mainly responsible for providing the industrial infrastructure for location of units in the form of industrial areas and water supply schemes continues to take up new areas like Nagothane, additional Aurangabad, Mahad, additional Roha, Jalgaon, etc. . The efforts of Government for rapid industrialisation through its agencies have succeeded in maintaining the position of pride in the industrial field in the country.

34. A very important programme which figures among the revised 20-Point Programme is the acceleration of the schemes for the development of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. A Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes and Tribal Area Sub-Plan has been formulated as part of the Development Plan of the State. Accordingly, by the end of Sixth Five-Year Plan 8.54 lakh families are expected to be covered.

35. The Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation has taken up various schemes and programmes designed to improve the social and economic status of the Backward Classes. The Corporation has secured about Rs. 158 lakhs from the Banks under the margin money loan schemes; and under the special assistance schemes, the Banks have sanctioned Rs. 97.33 lakhs.

36. Since 1976, the State Government has been implementing a tribal sub-plan for the all-round development of the Adivasi population. During 1983-84, about Rs. 72 crores as against the current year's outlay of Rs. 63 crores has been earmarked for the purpose of development of the tribal sub-plan areas. In addition to this, Rs. 7 crores will be received from the Government of India as a special Central assistance. Various schemes for each project area have been formulated with reference to local needs of the tribals, their natural environment and human resources capacity. For achieving human resources development, the emphasis of the tribal sub-plan is on strengthening the educational infrastructure. Similarly, special programmes for the Adivasis in the State have been implemented during 1982-83. With a view to protecting the tribals from exploitation by local traders, the Tribal Development Corporation has been implementing a monopoly purchase scheme in the tribal sub-plan areas.

37. During the Sixth Five-Year Plan period, it has been proposed to double the generating capacity. At the end of March 1982, the derated installed generating capacity in the State was 4,396 MW. In the year 1982-83, 540 MW of generating capacity has been added, consisting of Koradi Unit 7 (210 MW), Bhusawal Unit 3 (210 MW) and Gas Turbine Units 3 and 4 of 60 MW each in Uran. During 1983-84, it is planned to augment generating capacity by 920 MW, consisting of Tata Thermal Power Station Extension Unit 5 (500 MW) and Chandrapur Units 1 and 2 of 210 MW each.

38. The Government of India has recently sanctioned two units Nos. 5 and 6 (each 500 MW) for Chandrapur Extension Station.

39. Taking into account Maharashtra's share of 315 MW from National Thermal Power Corporation's Super Thermal Power Station in Korba, the available generation capacity in the State at the end of 1984-85 would be 6,976 MW. Even at that level it is anticipated that generating capacity would fall short of demand. Therefore, a number of proposals have been formulated and submitted by the State Government to the Government of India for sanction. These include Uran Gas Turbine Extension Station, Khaperkheda Extension, Chandrapur Extension, Ujani, Bhusawal and Dabhol in Ratnagiri district. Government of India has also been requested to set up a Super Thermal Power Station in Chandrapur area in the Central Sector.

40. As far as energisation of agricultural pumps is concerned, we have already crossed the target of 60,000 pumps for 1982-83. It is proposed to electrify 66,250 agricultural pumps during 1983-84. Similarly, under the rural electrification programme, it is proposed to electrify 1,500 villages during the next year. Priority has been accorded to electrification of tribal villages and energisation of agricultural pumps in tribal areas and electrification of harijan bastis.

41. In the context of drought and water scarcity conditions, in this year, in regard to electrification programme, Government has recently taken two important decisions of giving priority to energising drinking water pumps and granting 50 per cent concession in rates of electricity.

42. Honourable Members are aware how much importance has been given to forest development in the revised 20-Point Programme. During 1982-83 against the target of 12 crores, 22.75 crores seedlings have been actually planted and Maharashtra ranks first in country in respect of plantation. During 1983-84, it is intended to undertake a similar ambitious programme of plantation and to cover atleast an area of 58,600 hectares. In order to achieve more afforestation in less expenditure, Government has decided to undertake an experimental programme before monsoon of sowing of tree-seeds from helicopters or aeroplanes in some areas.

43. To raise additional resources for these and other forest development activities, the Maharashtra Forests Development Ordinance has been promulgated to enable the levy of a forest development tax. This revenue would be spent on the forest development programmes and for the welfare of the people dwelling in forests and the people dependent on forest produce for their livelihood.

44. Government is giving emphasis on various programmes of horticultural development for the benefit of small and marginal farmers and particularly the weaker sections of society. For this purpose, in 1982-83, a sum of Rs. 5.2 crores has been spent so far. Under this programme, the nurseries were formed in each district and quality planting material of various fruit trees was provided to the farmers.

45. With the assistance of the U.S. AID a Social Forestry project is being implemented since October 1982. This project costing Rs. 56 crores envisages provision of green cover to barren lands, gairans and waste lands in 5,400 villages during the next 5 years. 540 village panchayats are expected to adopt the management plan under the project during 1983-84 to improve the supply of fuel wood, fodder, etc. .

46. Our State has only 128 villages, with a population of 200 and above, which do not have a primary school within 1.5 km, and these would be covered in 1983-84. For catering to the increase in the number of students in primary schools 2,000 posts of teachers were sanctioned in 1982-83 and more posts of teachers according to the requirements will also be created.

47. Under the "INSAT for Education" programme of the Government of India, it is proposed to set up a production centre for preparing educational programmes for telecasting them. The districts of Nagpur, Bhandara and Chandrapur will be covered under this programme.

48. Government has before it a proposal to establish a new University of Amravati taking into consideration the educational needs of the people of the four districts of Vidarbha—Akola, Amravati, Yavatmal and Buldana.

49. With a view to promoting technical education on a larger scale, Government has taken a policy decision to allow private institutions to open engineering colleges and polytechnics on "no grant" basis.

50. A remarkable progress has been made in Medical and Dental Education. During 1982-83, a new Dental College has been started at Aurangabad with an intake capacity of 30 for the B.D.S. The Medical College at Solapur has been allowed to raise its total admissions from 75 to 100. During the same period, artificial kidney units have been set up at Bombay, Pune and Aurangabad Medical Colleges. For the treatment of the insidious disease of cancer, Cobalt units have been set up at the Medical College and Hospital at Aurangabad and the Medical College and Hospital at Nagpur. One more Cobalt unit at the General Hospital, Sangli is almost ready to start. Other Departments created are the Cardio Thoracic Departments at Nagpur and Aurangabad and in Nephrology at the Grant Medical College at Bombay. Full-fledged Departments of Neuro-Surgery and Cardio Vascular Surgery are also proposed to be set up at Nagpur. A hospital with 200 beds is proposed to be set up at Miraj. Government has just approved starting a Degree Course in Homoeopathy at Pune.

51. At the beginning of the year 1982-83, the Employees State Insurance Scheme in Maharashtra covered a total of 14,75,000 (as on 31st March 1982) workers. Now the scheme has been extended to other sectors like shops and establishments, hotels and transport undertakings, employing 20 or more persons. 21 additional places are proposed to be covered during 1983-84. It is also proposed to add 400 beds to the existing 200 beds at the Thane ESIS hospital.

52. Honourable Members are aware that, over the years, Maharashtra has been leading in the Family Welfare Programme in the country and this year too we have already reached even before 31st January 1983, 4.33 lakh sterilisations, as against annual target of 4.73 lakhs. In other major programmes also such as DT (diphtheria and tetanus) and typhoid immunization, T.B. cases detection and eye operations we are ahead of other States. I feel confident that the tempo of these programmes would be kept up and improved during 1983-84 as well.

53. In regard to the rural health infrastructure, the State Government have established 21 primary health centres, one thousand sub-centres and 70 subsidiary health centres during 1982-83. Our intention is that during 1983-84 these facilities should be further substantially augmented. Our State has been in the forefront in all the health aspects included in the 20-Point Programme, such as the family planning effort, substantial expansion of the primary health facilities and control of diseases like leprosy, T.B. and avoidable blindness.

54. Integrated Child Development Services Scheme is Centrally assisted and provides a package of early childhood services to children below 6 years of age. This scheme provides for health nutrition and nutrition education needs of pregnant and nursing mothers and adult women in the age-group of 15-44. In 1982-83, the scheme was in operation in 45 blocks. In these blocks, about 2 lakh children below the age of 6 and 80,000 pregnant women and mothers were getting supplementary nutrition. For 1983-84, an additional 29 I.C.D.S. projects have been sanctioned by the Government of India.

55. The prolonged strike of the textile workers and the hardship experienced thereby by family members of the workers are matters of great anxiety to Government. While dealing with the question of strike, it is necessary to take great care to see that the dignity of the workers is not lowered, their legitimate rights remain protected and that they will not be victimised. At the same time, it will not be proper to bypass the procedures and methods of industrial justice. Government is confident that the report of the High Power Committee appointed by the Government of India under the chairmanship of the former Chief Justice of Maharashtra will serve as a good guide. For this purpose, we expect to get co-operation of all concerned in the deliberations of the Committee and a speedy solution for solving this problem.

56. The programme of works pertaining to National Highways to be taken up in the Sixth Five-Year Plan comprises Road works, with estimated cost of Rs. 41.55 crores and Bridge works, with estimated cost of Rs. 14 crores. The expenditure incurred during the first two years of the Sixth Plan is Rs. 17.37 crores. The allocation

for the year 1982-83, is Rs. 9.40 crores. For the year 1983-84, it is estimated that similar allotment may be available from the Centre.

57. Achievements in respect of road development with reference to 1961-81 revised road development plan is not uniform in all the regions of the State. During 1982-83, therefore, a provision of Rs. 4 crores was made for special road development programme in Vidarbha, which would be fully spent. Similarly, a special provision of Rs. 2 crores has been made during 1982-83 for road development in hilly areas of Western Maharashtra and the same also would be fully spent. During 1983-84, it is proposed to step up the provisions for both these programmes.

58. Under the Scheme "Integrated Development of Western Ghats", the Planning Commission has in February 1982 approved a programme of 47 Road/Bridge works, costing Rs. 9.76 crores, with an allocation of Rs. 2.50 crores in the Sixth Five-Year Plan.

59. The acute shortage of housing particularly for the poor in urban areas and more particularly in the metropolitan area of Bombay, and the resultant increase of slums is proposed to be tackled by Government, with concentrated effort by undertaking a massive programme of development of sites and lands which will be serviced by provision of infrastructural services and allotted at a concessional rate to the lower income groups.

60. A programme popularly called "Shelter Project" which will provide affordable, low income sites for construction of shelter by the allottees, is proposed to be started in the ensuing year. 80,000 units under "Sites and Services Scheme" will be laid over a period of four years in the Bombay Metropolitan Region, after securing financial assistance from the World Bank. Simultaneously, slums, which are not going to be removed, will be taken up for further upgradation and also for improvement of shelters with easy finance that would be made available to the occupants of slum dwellings. One lakh families living in slums are proposed to be covered by this scheme. Similarly, Kamathipura area of Bombay City, which is one of the worst built-up old parts of the City, will be taken up for urban renewal and total modernisation, to be spread over 15 years. A beginning in this regard will be made from the ensuing year.

61. Sanjay Gandhi Swavalamban Yojana is being reviewed. In the light of experience, efforts will be made to improve its imple-

mentation. Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Anudan Yojana will also be implemented with necessary modifications.

62. The Bombay Municipal Corporation has taken up execution of the Bhatsai Project, Phase II for augmentation of water supply to the City with the assistance of the World Bank. On completion of the project, the present water supply of 2,000 m.l.d. for Greater Bombay would be increased to 2,450 m.l.d. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 354 crores against which the World Bank has sanctioned an assistance of U. S. \$ 196 million. Similarly a composite water supply and sewerage scheme has been taken up for 6 Municipal towns and 104 villages in Thane District with World Bank Assistance. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 86 crores. This project is likely to be completed by 1985.

63. The Pench scheme for augmentation of water supply to Nagpur Municipal Corporation has now been completed at a cost of about Rs. 10.50 crores. This Project has enabled the Corporation to have additional water supply of 113 m.l.d. The Corporation has now taken up the work of improvement of distribution system at a cost of Rs. 12.60 crores.

64. On the recommendations of the Commission appointed by Government to study the question of constituting new Municipal Corporations in certain fast growing and developing areas, Government has decided in principle to establish 9 new Municipal Corporations in the State. Out of these, 4 Municipal Corporations have since been established for Thane, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Nashik and Aurangabad.

65. The decade of 1981-91 has been adopted as International Water Supply and Sanitation Decade for implementation of time-bound programme for improvement of water supply and sanitation facilities. The State Government has accepted the target of covering 100 per cent. population under Urban Water Supply Programme. Out of remaining 18 municipal towns, schemes in respect of 14 towns are in progress, while schemes for 4 towns would be taken up during 1983-84.

66. The Bombay Metropolitan Region Development Authority has taken up the development of the Truck Terminal at Wadala. Similarly, CIDCO is developing the whole-sale steel market at

Kalamboli and the whole-sale market for agricultural produce at Turbhe in New Bombay. These steps would go a long way in reducing congestion particularly in the Island City. The decision of the Government of India for construction of the East-West Corridor from Mankhurd to Belapur would also go a long way in the development of New Bombay.

67. The United Nations Development Programme has introduced a scheme for conversion of dry latrines into Low Cost Sanitation latrines. The scheme has been sanctioned during the current year in 15 Municipal towns in Maharashtra and on the basis of encouraging response and with a view to eliminating the practice of scavenging, it is proposed to introduce this programme in all municipal towns with a population of less than 100,000 in a phased programme in accordance with the target set for the International Water Supply and Sanitation Decade Programme. It is proposed to take up this programme in about 75 towns during 1983-84. The State Government is providing grant-in-aid equal to 50 per cent. of the cost of conversion, while 50 per cent. would be made available to Municipal Councils as loan. The scheme is proposed to be executed through the Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Board on behalf of the Municipal Councils.

68. Government continued to take steps to strengthen the public distribution system. The number of retail outlets like fair price shops and authorised ration shops in the State increased from 29490 to 30139 between March to December 1982. Essential commodities like foodgrains, sugar and edible oils are distributed through this system.

69. The Government of India used to make a monthly allotment of 75,000 Metric tonnes of rice to the State. But since June 1982 as the Government of India has made a drastic cut and reduced the supply to 25,000 Metric tonnes, the State Government had to face a great difficulty in making supply of rice through the public distribution system. The Government of India expressed its inability to increase the monthly allotment. But it has permitted the State Government to purchase rice in open market upto 40,000 MT in some of the specified States. Therefore, there is now some improvement in the situation.

70. In order to enable the farmers to get good price for producing jowar, Government introduced the system of support

price scheme. Under this scheme, Government upto 22nd February 1983 purchased 148000 Metric tonnes of jowar. Government has also decided to purchase discoloured or blackened jowar from cultivators, whose crops had been damaged due to natural causes.

71. I would like to emphasise the high priority Government accords to the problems of police personnel. Government is considering the restructuring of the State Police Housing Corporation to enable it to cope with large scale Police housing programme and the recommendations received from a Committee that was set up to examine the suggestions received from the police officers and policemen. According to the needs, it has been decided to increase the strength of policemen at police stations and to increase the strength of staff at police headquarters, in a phased manner. Government is aware of the difficulties of the policemen and Government is making efforts to improve this situation. So far, during 1982-83, quarters for 24 police officers and 1737 policemen have been completed. During the year 1983-84, Government intends to speed up this programme and 300 police officers' quarters and 8400 constabulary quarters are expected to be completed.

72. The report of an expert group upon the suitability of ferry services along the Bombay harbour for commuter traffic in Bombay to relieve the present congestion over the rail and road networks has recently been received by Government. For the further development of Dabhol and Rajapur Creeks, land use plans are in the process of study and it is proposed to identify also the ports and infrastructure facilities needed for port-based industries and projects.

73. As Government has decided that all official business shall be transacted in Marathi by 1985, the task of completing, at an early date, the translation of official manuals into Marathi and instruction in Marathi language to those of the staff of Government, who are not conversant with Marathi has been undertaken.

74. The State Government has always taken sympathetic attitude towards the problems of persons affected by Irrigation and other Projects. An enactment called the Maharashtra Resettlement of Project Displaced Persons Act, 1976 provides the statutory basis for resettlement of such persons. However, in the practical imple-

mentation of this Act, several difficulties were brought to the notice of Government, and Government has constituted a Committee to examine the adequacy of the provisions of the Act and recommend amendments where necessary for the consideration of Government. On receipt of the recommendations of this Committee, the question of amending the Act would be taken up.

75. Honourable Members are aware that the Division Court and the Judges of the Bombay High Court are having their sittings at Aurangabad. Government has decided to construct the High Court Bench building, District Court building and houses for the Judges and the staff at Aurangabad. Efforts will be made to meet all requirements for a permanent Bench of the High Court at Aurangabad.

76. The border issue between Maharashtra and Karnataka has been evading solution since a long time. In the areas of Belgaum, Nipani and other areas of Karnataka State which adjoin Maharashtra, Marathi speaking people have several times expressed through the democratic process their yearning that their areas should merge in Maharashtra. I believe it is also the desire of the newly formed Government in Karnataka that this issue should be resolved as early as possible. We feel that this problem should be solved by mutual understanding and consultation and on a reciprocal basis and for this purpose, Government of Maharashtra has just convened a special meeting of the leaders of the Opposition Parties and of all concerned for discussing the policy to be adopted in solving this problem.

77. Honourable Members, during the present session, you have to consider the Supplementary Demands, Vote on Account, Budget, Bills to convert certain Ordinances into Acts, pending and new Bills of urgent nature and other Government as well as non-official urgent business, which may be brought before you for consideration.

78. Before I conclude, I would like to indicate to you the important Government Bills which are likely to be taken during this session :—

- (1) The Bombay University (Amendment) Bill, 1983.
- (2) The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment and Continuance) Bill, 1983.

- (3) The Maharashtra Forest Development (Tax on Sale of Forest Produce by Government or Forest Development Corporation) (Continuance) Bill, 1983.
- (4) The Police (Incitement to Disaffection) (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 1983.
- (5) The Maharashtra Drinking Water Supply Requisition Bill, 1983.
- (6) The Maharashtra Vacant Lands (Further Interim Protection to Occupiers from Eviction and Recovery of Arrears of Rent) (Extension of Duration) Bill, 1983.
- (7) The Indian Forest (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 1982 (L. A. Bill No. XIII of 1982).
- (8) The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1983.
- (9) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1983.
- (10) The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 1983.
- (11) The Maharashtra Labour (Payment of Minimum House Rent Allowance) Bill, 1983.
- (12) The Indian Partnership (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 1983.
- (13) The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 1983.

79. You are thus likely to have a heavy agenda and I would not like to detain you any longer.

Honourable Members, you will now begin your labours. I have finished my speech.

I wish your deliberations every success.

JAI HIND !

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