



ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

THE GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA

JOINT SESSION OF THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE AT BOMBAY

19 January 1990



MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. SPEAKER AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

I am happy to welcome you to this first and short Session of the State Legislature for the year 1990. The year 1989 has been one more year of all-round sustained and impressive development of the State.

2. With the continuing efforts of the Government and the people of Maharashtra, we expect to exceed the Seventh Five Year Plan target of investment of Rs. 10,500 crores. In spite of severe drought conditions in the first three years of the Plan, the tempo of development has been maintained, with stress on the removal of regional imbalance and the development of the tribal areas. As a part of the Twenty Point Programme, 12 lakh families below the poverty line have been assisted on several self-employment programmes.

3. Critical and indepth studies have been undertaken to evolve an appropriate strategy for the Eighth Five Year Plan. Our concerns and our priorities will be reflected in the draft Annual Plan of 1990-91, which is now under finalisation in consultation with the Planning Commission, as a part of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

4. A time-bound Special Action Plan of development has been undertaken to provide basic infrastructure, such as roads, safe drinking water, nutrition and health facilities for the most inaccessible and backward tribal areas of Dhadgaon and Akkalkuwa talukas of Dhule District.

5. My Government has decided to reduce the minimum population limit from 100 to 80 for taking drinking water borewells. Government has also decided to take measures for drinking water supply in additional 1,300 villages and 2,570 Wadis, which now face drinking water problem.

6. In order to bring about comprehensive development of villages and creating additional employment potential through the Employment Guarantee Scheme and involvement of the local people, Government has started a new programme called "Shramashaktidwara Gram Vikas" during the current year.

7. Towards achieving the objective of "Health for all by 2000 AD.", Government has decided to set-up during the current year, additional 131 Primary Health Centres and 17 Rural Hospitals.

8. During the year 1988-89, foodgrains production in the State reached a record level of 110.76 lakh metric tonnes. The oilseeds production also

reached a record level of 17.03 lakh metric tonnes. The production during the current year is expected to be even higher.

9. In July 1989, the State faced an unprecedented natural calamity in the shape of torrential rains, heavy floods and stormy winds causing heavy damage to life and property. The State Government immediately launched rescue and relief operations and undertook the work of restoring disrupted essential services and physical infrastructure. The existing norms of financial assistance were liberalised. My Government extended financial assistance to the affected agriculturists and horticulturists, and the work of restoration of the affected lands is under progress. Financial assistance has also been extended for repairs of damaged houses and construction of new houses on safer sites.

10. Honourable Members are aware that during the last one and half years, my Government has written off the loans of farmers to the tune of over Rs. 236 crores. My Government has also decided to further write off an amount of about Rs. 40 crores of outstanding land development dues. Plant protection loans of about Rs. 16.5 crores given in the past to the orange growers of Vidarbha have also been waived.

11. I am happy to say that, in line with the above policy of my Government, the new Government at the Centre has also announced their decision to write off the outstanding loans of small farmers, landless agricultural labourers, artisans and weavers upto Rs. 10,000 in each case. If the Central Government credits the requisite amount in this behalf to the Co-operative, Nationalised and Commercial Banks expeditiously, it would greatly help in boosting production. My Government expects the Central Government to take immediate and concrete action in this respect before the commencement of the ensuing agricultural season.

12. Government has decided to support the setting-up of 17 Co-operative Spinning mills based on new technology.

13. The educational programme for the tribals received a significant boost with the sanctioning of 131 Ashram Schools this year, bringing the total number of Ashram Schools in the State to 522. Over 1.20 lakh students are getting the benefit of education in these schools. In addition, Government has also decided to start 2 Model Ashram Schools for tribals from the next academic year in Dhule and Ahmednagar districts on the lines of the Navodaya Vidyalayas.

14. Government has decided that, if there is a demand and a suitable site is available, at least one lift irrigation scheme should be set up in each Integrated Tribal Development Project at Government cost.

15. For the convenience of Tribals, Government has decided to restructure the existing Adivasi Service Co-operative Societies so as to have one such Society for a population of about 5,000.

16. To give a fillip to Backward Class Housing, the norms for loans and subsidy have been liberalised.

17. My Government has decided to include within the Nomadic Tribes, the Dhangars and their sub-castes Ahir, Dange, Gatari, Hande, Telwar, Hatkar, Haatkar, Khutekar, Kanade, Kurmar, Ladse, Sangar, Dhanvar, Shegar, Telangi, Tellari, Konkani-Dhangar, Varhade-Dhangar Zade, Zende and Mahure, whose whole family moves from village to village for a period of more than six months in a year for grazing of their sheep and goats, so that they become eligible to avail themselves of the concessions provided by the State Government to the Nomadic Tribes.

18. Government has decided to set up Special Welfare Centres in Bombay with the help of non-Governmental organisations for the benefit of the weaker and disadvantaged sections of the community.

19. Government has liberalised the scheme of incentives for the production of Marathi Films, and also sanctioned Rs. 51 lakhs to the Marathi Natya Parishad for construction of a Drama Complex.

20. During the year, 60,000 agricultural pumps have been energised so far, bringing the total number of pumps energised to 14.55 lakhs, which is the highest for any State in the country.

21. Hon'ble Members are aware of the crucial importance of power supply for the economic development of the State. Keeping this in view, my Government has decided to substantially augment the outlay on the power sector and to earmark 30 per cent. of the plan outlay for the next year for this sector.

22. The dairy activities in the State reached an all-time high during the current year, when an average of 26.63 lakh litres milk has been procured per day. The State has, for the first time, succeeded in supplying milk, on a regular basis, to certain cities in other States, like Raipur, Delhi, Calcutta, Madgaon etc.

23. The decisions announced by my Government last year to give incentives to poultry farming have evoked good response, and 29 Co-operative Societies have been established and 52 more Societies have

been recommended to the National Co-operative Development Corporation for financial assistance.

24. An impressive programme of setting up 5 Chinese Hatcheries, with a potential of producing 5 crore fish seeds annually, has been taken up during the current year.

25. The Package Scheme of Incentives for industries announced in 1988 has received enthusiastic response from entrepreneurs. For implementing the enlarged programme of providing industrial infrastructure, the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation has initiated land acquisition proceedings in 75 mini-industrial areas and 55 industrial growth centres. In addition, six Growth centres under a Centrally sponsored scheme will also be set up in different regions of the State for providing comprehensive infrastructural facilities.

26. A novel experiment of rehabilitation of sick units through Workers' Co-operative has been supported by my Government in the case of M/s. Kamani Tubes Ltd. The State Government has also evolved liberal norms for giving assistance in the cases of sick units which come up before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

27. As a result of persistent efforts made by the State Government, the Government of India have approved allocation of gas for three Sponge Iron Projects in Konkan Region, which will create a number of jobs in the downstream industries and give a boost to steel production in the State. Government is continuing its efforts to obtain more natural gas for industrial and other projects in the State.

28. The State Government has been encouraging sericulture as an employment oriented productive activity, and over 1200 hectares have been brought under mulberry plantation in various parts of the State during the current year.

29. I am happy to inform you that the Government of India have given Letters of Intent to 24 new sugar factories in the co-operative sector in Maharashtra. Out of these, 13 factories are situated in the backward areas of Marathwada and Vidarbha.

30. Under the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme, the Maharashtra State Cotton Growers' Federation has procured 60 lakh quintals of cotton till January 1990, and it hopes to procure further 30 lakh quintals

in the current season. The State Government has decided to pay, right from the beginning of the season, advance bonus of 20 per cent. over and above the support price fixed by the Government of India.

31. Industrial relations in the State showed a marked improvement during the year, the mandays-loss during 1989 being 36.70 lakhs, as compared to 64.83 lakhs during 1988. I am happy to say that due to the persistent efforts of the Government at the highest level, industrial peace was restored in the Sewri factory of M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd. and the Pimpri-Chinchwad Units of M/s. Telco Ltd., providing relief to a large number of workers and their families.

32. Urban Water Supply Sector continued to receive emphasis during 1989-90. Sixty-four Water supply and Sewerage Schemes have been under execution during this year. Of these, schemes for Jalna-Ambad, Nashik and Nanded in the City and Industrial Development Corporation areas and Nhava-Sheva Water Supply Project (Stage-II) have already been commissioned. It is expected that additional 21 schemes would be completed during the next year. 10 new water supply schemes, including the scheme for Nagpur (Pench phase-II), have been taken up during the current year.

33. Urbanisation has been growing at a rapid pace in the State, putting a great strain on the existing infrastructure and amenities in our towns and cities. To meet this challenge, my Government has taken fresh initiatives on Low Cost Sanitation, Environmental improvement, Urban Social Forestry and Urban poverty alleviation.

34. With a view to strengthening vocationalisation of education at Higher Secondary Stage, my Government has extended the Minimum Competency Courses to additional 150 educational institutions. Similarly, 7 new Industrial Training Institutes have been started in different parts of the State.

35. During the current year, in addition to opening two Government Medical Colleges at Yavatmal and Dhule, private institutions have been permitted to open, on "No Grant basis", 7 Allopathic, 10 Ayurvedic, 8 Dental and 4 Homoeopathic Colleges. This will provide new opportunities for medical education for about 2000 students and create over 7000 additional hospital beds in the State.

36. The cumulative potential attained in the State by June 1989 through irrigation projects in the State sector was 25.5 lakh hectares. It

is expected that this would be further increased by 68,000 hectares by June 1990.

37. To encourage beneficiary participation in the execution of irrigation works, Government has encouraged co-operative sugar factories to take up the works of Kolhapur type weirs in their respective areas of operation. I am glad to say that there is a positive response from several sugar Co-operatives.

38. In order to facilitate the rapid development of the Marathwada region, the State Government will vigorously pursue its proposal with the Government of India to participate financially, through issue of bonds, in the work of the conversion of the metre gauge railway lines in this region. My Government also stands by its earlier commitment to provide land, free of cost, for the Konkan Railway, and efforts are continuing to extend the work of the Konkan Railway beyond Roha.

39. Government has continued to implement the scheme of road connections to villages as per national guidelines. It is expected that, by the end of the current year, 100 per cent. villages with a population of over 1500 will be connected. In the case of villages in the population group of 1000-1500, the State has achieved 82 per cent. coverage, as compared to the national target of 50 per cent.

40. Reflecting our concern for slum dwellers, the programme of slum improvement has been substantially augmented by providing basic amenities to 7 lakh additional slum dwellers during the current year.

41. Government has decided to undertake a special programme to develop 33 places as tourist spots on the Western Coast of Konkan Region, and for this purpose land would be made available to entrepreneurs, including Non-Resident-Indians, through the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation.

42. Government has already set up the first sports hostel in the State at Kandivli. Government also proposes to develop a modern Sports Complex at Pune.

43. My Government is acutely aware of the environmental compulsions in the State's emerging development scenario and the need for harmonious development. In pursuance of this, the State has adopted the far-reaching amendments made by Parliament to the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

44. During the current year, the State Government has taken several steps to improve the condition of ex-servicemen in the State. A Cabinet Minister has been specially entrusted with the subject of ex-servicemen's welfare. A pension of Rs. 300 per month has been sanctioned to veterans of the Second World War, who are not in receipt of any pension from the Central Government. Educational qualifications of ex-servicemen seeking employment under the State Government are being relaxed to bring them on par with the concessions given by the Government of India.

45. The honorarium of Police Patils has been raised from Rs. 75 per month to Rs. 300 per month. The remuneration of Kotwals has been more than doubled and fixed at Rs. 600 per month from October 1989, with further increases from March 1990 and March 1991.

46. During the last year, due to the constant vigil on the part of the Administration, the law and order situation remained quite satisfactory. The anti-Naxalite Action Plan in Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts was further strengthened and has gained momentum.

47. With a view to taking the administration of justice nearer to the people, Government has decided to establish Judicial Courts at 44 additional taluka places so as to cover all the taluka places in the State. During the current year, 23 of these Courts have already been set up. In addition, at 12 taluka places, Courts of appellate jurisdiction and of Civil Judge (Senior Division) have also been established during the year.

48. My Government has been considering the proposal to promote a suitable legislation to abolish octroi and to levy Entry Tax in lieu thereof. Any Bill in this behalf requires the previous sanction of the President before its introduction in the State Legislature. As divergent views have been expressed on the subject by different sections of the public, including the trade and the Local authorities, my Government proposes to publish the propositional statements of such a legislation for eliciting public opinion in respect thereof, so that an effective legislation can then be enacted without further loss of time.

49. Since a number of Government departments and semi-Government bodies and organisations were finding it difficult to carry on their increasing activities without filling in sanctioned posts which were lying vacant, Government has decided to allow the filling of vacant posts by withdrawing the ban on direct recruitment imposed under Zero Base Budgeting and Development Base Budgeting.

50. I am aware how intensely the people of Maharashtra feel about the Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue—an issue which has eluded solution for the last several years. With a view to resolving this matter on democratic principles, my Government has suggested the holding of an opinion poll in the disputed areas. Though this proposition did evoke favourable response at the Government of India's level, there has not been tangible progress in the matter. The results of the recent elections in these areas clearly indicate the wishes of the local people, who are overwhelmingly in favour of merger with Maharashtra. Accordingly, keeping in view the intense feelings of the people in the border area and the verdict given by them through democratic process from time to time, the Central Government should give them justice by resolving this question without any delay.

51. Honourable Members, during this Session, you have to consider the ratification of the 62nd Constitution Amendment Bill recently passed by Parliament as also Bills to convert certain Ordinances into Acts and other Government urgent business, which may be brought before you.

I wish your deliberations every success.

JAI HIND. JAI MAHARASHTRA

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