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DELIVERED BY

**SHRI SRI PRAKASA**

*Governor of Maharashtra*

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**Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,**

It is my privilege once again to meet the honourable members of the Maharashtra State Legislature and to welcome them to this session. I take this opportunity of offering my very best felicitations to you all and wishing you a happy, prosperous and eventful new year. The last session of the Legislature held at Nagpur was in fulfilment of a pledge given to our people in Vidarbha and Government has only recently returned to Bombay. I am sure you all enjoyed your stay at Nagpur and also what, with its refreshing climate and the genial hospitality, was extended to you and Government by the people of Nagpur. I have no doubt in my mind that the move has helped to bring about a better mutual understanding between the people of our different regions.

2 In his speech delivered on the occasion of the swearing-in ceremony of the Council of Ministers of the new State of Maharashtra on the 1st May, 1960, the Chief Minister gave certain assurances to the people of the State. I am glad to note that within a few months of the inauguration of the State, it was possible for Government to implement most of these assurances. Accordingly, in the field of education, special attention has been given to vocational education and the scheme for establishment of multi-lateral and multi-purpose schools included in the Second Five-Year Plan has been implemented. Special educational concessions granted to the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions have been continued. An Administrative Reforms Committee is shortly being set up to go into the question of the adequacy of the administrative machinery to meet the requirements of the Third Five-Year Plan. The Neo-Buddhists have been made eligible for all concessions and facilities available to the Scheduled Castes except the statutory

concessions under the Constitution. The Neo-Buddhists are also exempted from tuition and examination fees and get admission to the seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes in the educational institutions. In deference to their demand, Government has declared as a public holiday the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar. The outstanding balances of the loans given to the sufferers in the period after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi have already been remitted by Government. A Board of Language and Culture has been established and it has started working. A Directorate of Language to prepare the ground for the change over from English to Marathi was set up some months ago and basic work like compiling a dictionary of administrative terms and other reference books, as also the training of stenographers and typists required for making a start for the use of Marathi in administration is being taken up. Government has also set up under the chairmanship of Shri Dongerkery, Vice-Chancellor of the Marathwada University, a committee to examine the steps necessary for the progressive substitution of the regional and national language as the medium of instruction in the universities and technical and other institutions of higher learning.

3 I had referred to the Maharashtra-Mysore border dispute in my last address. You will be interested to know that the Four-man Committee appointed to go into the points of agreement and disagreement between the two State Governments has already started functioning and it held its first meeting on the 23rd of last month. We shall eagerly await the result of its deliberations. I would reiterate the Government's faith that the solution of this vexed problem lies not in an agitational approach but in persuasion and negotiation.

4 In this connection, I would refer to a matter which, I am sure, is agitating your minds also. This concerns the distribution of the waters of the Krishna and Godavari rivers. I am very glad to note that in its last session this Legislature gave its unanimous support to Government in its effort to get the arrangements of 1951 revised, as they would spell untold

misery to the people in the scarcity areas of this State. It is not a question of narrow interests or prestige as between one State and another, but of making the best possible use of the available supplies of water in the interests of the people who need them. It is, wholly and simply, a human problem and must be solved in that spirit. With reason and goodwill on all sides, I look forward to a just and early settlement of this question.

5 Before turning to the various departmental activities of Government, I shall first dwell upon the fundamental and basic objectives which Government has placed before itself in its approach to the problems of the new State of Maharashtra. To put it briefly, its goal is to make our State a modern, progressive and socialistic State. Its policies and administration are, therefore, directed to achieving social unity and equality, meaning thereby that it will strive to provide equal opportunities for all regardless of class or caste and eliminate all forms of exploitation so as to make the best use of the available human material for the advancement of the State. To make the State modern and progressive, it will make every effort to remove the present agricultural, educational and industrial backwardness so as to raise the standard of living of its people, particularly in rural areas.

6 In agriculture, apart from improving agricultural usages and technique and providing irrigation facilities, Government will tackle the subject of land reforms, affecting as it does the lives and fortunes of millions of our peasants, both from the human and economic aspects. Moreover, with a view to removing the present disparity between the urban and rural areas, and achieving social and economic justice, Government will accelerate the programme of rural electrification so that it may lead to the growth and development of agricultural processing industries, as well as the industries manufacturing improved agricultural implements and fertilizers. In short, Government's aim is to transform the present agricultural economy into a dynamic agro-industrial economy resulting in more production, dispersal of industries against their present

concentration in a few cities, more employment to the rural people and better living conditions and amenities for them.

7. In the industrial field, it will lay adequate stress on large, medium and small scale industries and encourage the establishment of village and cottage industries through the medium of co-operatives, as far as possible, utilizing the State's mineral, industrial and man-power potential to the fullest extent possible. Government will put up more power plants and further the commercial importance of Bombay City. I may state that Government is aware of the ever growing importance of labour and it will strive to improve its working conditions and standard of living. I would reiterate my remarks in my last speech before this Legislature that it is absolutely essential to establish an industrial truce over a period of years by common agreement between Government, industries and labour.

8. In the field of education, which is the key to all progress and economic prosperity, Government will open its door to all; merit alone will be the criterion, and not class or caste, for affording educational facilities. Only in this way can talent be discovered and utilized for the good of the State and of the nation. For the economic development of the State, Government will make education more broadbased, with a vocational bias and give a spurt to scientific and technical education.

9. For the advancement of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and also Neo-Buddhists, Government will make an all out effort and continue to give them all facilities that lie in its power.

10. I shall now turn to other matters. While, on the one hand, the high administrative traditions which the State has inherited have been further consolidated and improved upon, on the other, new channels are being laid to broadbase the administration, without allowing its efficiency to suffer. The honourable members will agree with me that in democracy the test of successful administration lies not merely in its organisational efficiency, but, in a still larger measure, in its capacity

to be responsive to the will of the people and enlist their close association with it. I am referring to the ultimate ideal that we have set before us, namely, of a Panchayat Raj. Democratisation of authority through a process of decentralisation is the quintessence of this concept. The Committee set up by Government in June last to examine the question how best and how soon this consummation could be brought about has almost completed its task, and the stage is now set for active consideration by Government of the concrete measures which will be suggested by it to achieve the objective.

11 A particular requirement of administration, and of a more urgent nature, is to bring about uniformity and harmony in the administrative system of the three integrated units of the State. Inevitably, this has to be a slow and gradual process. It is a matter for gratification that it is being achieved step by step by amending various laws and modifying administrative methods which were in force in these three units, so that eventually a picture will emerge not only of a geographically but also of an administratively unified Maharashtra. This, in its turn, by eliminating the imbalances that may exist between the three regions, can be expected to accelerate the process of emotional integration of the people of these regions. This is, however, a task that should not be left entirely to Government, and I earnestly appeal to the honourable members to do everything in their individual power to speed up this process of integration, so that the theme of unity, team-work and a common goal may dominate the thoughts and actions of the inhabitants of all the regions.

12 You are meeting in this session at a very crucial juncture, for, we are now entering upon the third phase of our national planning. The Third Five-Year Plan of the State, which in a sense is the first full-fledged plan of Maharashtra, is now receiving final touches. In order to allow full scope to the hopes and aspirations of the people in the formulation of the Plan, the proposals framed earlier by the specially formed study groups were considered by the development bodies at the divisional and district levels, which reflect local public opinion.

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The outline of the Plan as it emerged through this process was then placed before you in August last for your advice. It also went through the Consultative Committee set up at the State level. Every care is thus being taken to see that the Plan is shaped as a people's plan. After its review and approval by the Central bodies, the size of the Plan has been finally fixed at Rs. 390 crores. Detailed schemes are being worked out and co-ordinated, and, while formulating the schemes of development, special attention will be paid to the areas of Vidarbha and Marathwada in the context of their particular needs, as also the areas which suffer from natural handicaps like the Konkan and the scarcity tracts. While the main objectives set out by the Planning Commission have been duly kept in view, a special effort has been made to resolve the economic problem of the landless agricultural labour and to facilitate greater State participation in the expansion and development of industries, whether direct, or in collaboration with the municipal sector, co-operative sector or the private sector.

13 It is gratifying to note that the road to the Third Plan is well paved by the achievements of the Second. In spite of the difficulties that followed in the wake of two re-organisations of the State, as also those resulting from the foreign exchange position and import restrictions, we will have exceeded the Plan outlay of Rs. 204.41 crores by the end of the Plan period.

14 The Programme of Community Development which was inaugurated in the State in 1952 has by now covered almost the entire rural area of the State. There are, in all, about 392 Development Blocks, of which 4 are in the Community Development Stage of the old pattern, 161 in Stage I, 74 in Stage II, 4 in Multi-purpose Development Project Stage and 148 in Pre-extension Stage. The programme has helped to bring about an urge of self-help and self-reliance in the villagers for united effort to secure their socio-economic betterment. It is proposed to intensify the Community Development Programme in backward and hilly areas and also in areas which are highly vulnerable to scarcity conditions by augmenting the resources of the Blocks concerned. The State Government has paid

special attention to the programme of rural housing which is in operation since 1958. Special attention was also given to opening of Primary Health Centres, with Sub-Centres in Stage I Blocks.

15 Village panchayats, though small institutions, have large potentialities and they function as basic units of self-government at the village level. It is expected that there will be cent per cent coverage in the State by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan so far as panchayats are concerned.

16 A subject that will demand your major attention in this session is, of course, the measure which seeks to impose ceiling on holdings of agricultural land and provides for the acquisition and distribution of lands held in excess of such ceiling, in an order of priority provided therein. A noticeable feature of the Bill is that no exception is made in the case of large industrial undertakings, e.g. sugar factories. At the same time, care has been taken to ensure uninterrupted supplies of agricultural raw material so as not to affect the industry's output. Government considers this a step in the right direction to ensure social justice. Further, in the distribution of surplus land, co-operative farming societies and landless labourers have been allotted priority. As you will be discussing the matter at length, I shall restrict my observation to commending it to you as a measure that will help to establish economic and social justice by removing the disparities in land holdings.

17 The question of landless agricultural families is also being dealt with in another way by distributing Government cultivable waste lands to them. To this end, Government has already adopted necessary administrative measures. As a first step, 1,16,000 acres of land was distributed in the six districts of Western Maharashtra under a Pilot Project. The same procedure was extended to the Vidarbha and Marathwada areas after making necessary amendments in the Rules and about two and a half lakhs of acres of Government waste land in Vidarbha has recently been distributed in that area. The process of distribution of waste land had already started in the



Marathwada area in 1954 and most of the cultivable waste land in that area has been distributed. About 30,000 acres of cultivable waste land which is still available for distribution in Marathwada is expected to be disposed of by the end of March 1961.

18 In the field of agriculture, while work continues on soil conservation by means of contour-bunding in the dry and arid areas, attention is being paid to the terracing of hill slopes in heavy rainfall areas and about 4,500 acres are proposed to be terraced in Bombay and Poona Divisions by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan for growing paddy. It is proposed to continue the work of terracing during the Third Plan also. Important research work on cotton continues to be done at the research stations at Achalpur, Nanded, Jalgaon and Akola, both for evolving better ginning and longer staple length cottons and disease resistant varieties. Results so far have been satisfactory. Fruit development schemes in respect of cashewnut, coconut, pepper, etc. are in progress at various centres.

19 Another field of activity of which Maharashtra State can be proud pertains to dairy development. The Bombay Milk Scheme continued to make good progress. However, as with the ever-increasing population of the City the Aarey dairy is not able to meet in full the growing demand for milk, a second dairy is being established at a cost of Rs. 3 crores and is expected to go into operation by the end of this year. Similarly, another milk colony is being set up at the Vankas and Dabchuri villages in Thana District at an estimated cost of Rs. 2 crores. This colony will shelter the cattle removed from Bombay City, which will thus complete Government's programme for shifting the cattle population of this city. Besides these larger projects, district milk supply schemes have been undertaken or are proposed for Amravati, Akola, Aurangabad, Miraj and Talegaon, while those already started at Poona, Nagpur, Kolhapur, Sholapur, Karjat and Nasik continue to make good progress.

20 On the food front a change of far-reaching significance for the future has taken place recently in the Zonal arrangement between Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Under the modified Zonal arrangement the surplus quantities of rice and wheat from Madhya Pradesh have been flowing into Maharashtra on trade account. There are large stocks of indigenous wheat in Madhya Pradesh and with the free availability of overseas wheat and the imports of wheat from Madhya Pradesh into Maharashtra, there would be no difficulty regarding wheat supplies for Maharashtra State which is deficit both in rice and wheat. As regards rice, in the initial stages, the quantities moving from Madhya Pradesh into Maharashtra were not substantial owing to wagon difficulties but the Railway Ministry has recently made arrangements for supply of requisite number of wagons for movement of rice. Since it is not yet clear if the rice surplus of Madhya Pradesh will be adequate for meeting the deficits of Maharashtra and Gujarat, the Government of India has decided, pending an examination of this question, to make rice allocations to Maharashtra State and accordingly the rice quota for the month of January 1961 was allotted by the Government of India. It is hoped that with supplies of rice from Madhya Pradesh and the rice quotas given by the Government of India it should be possible to distribute adequate quantities of rice to the consumers in Maharashtra State. Before the modification of the Zonal arrangement the prices of wheat and rice, especially of the latter, were very high in Maharashtra State. After the import of Madhya Pradesh wheat and rice the prices have come down considerably and it is expected that the downward trend of the prices of rice and wheat would continue in the future. The modified Zonal arrangements have created a feeling of satisfaction among all classes of consumers in Maharashtra.

21. All possible efforts are being made to step up the progress of irrigation schemes presently under execution. The fifty major and medium irrigation schemes taken up during the Second Plan period have made good progress. Work on several schemes like the Vir, Khadakwasla and Girna projects in

Western Maharashtra, the Bor and Nalganga in Vidarbha, and the Purna project in Marathwada is in full swing. Completion of these schemes will give us an irrigation potential of 12,34,691 acres, as against the achievement of 1,28,121 acres by June 1960. In addition to these major and medium schemes, the minor irrigation works will create an irrigation potential of 2,48,100 acres by the end of the Second Plan.

22 The question of optimum utilisation of water resources needs thorough investigation and research and accurate designing of the projects proposed to be undertaken to tap them. To this end, a number of bodies, which include the Central Designs Organisation and Hydro Circle, Mechanical Circle, Maharashtra Engineering Institute and State Irrigation Board, have been set up. Recently Government has appointed an Irrigation Commission which will assess the water resources of the State and draw up an integrated programme for their utilisation.

23 A connected matter is full utilisation of irrigation potential already created. The irrigation schemes—major and medium—are either storage schemes or weir schemes. On the storage schemes in Maharashtra the irrigation potential created towards the end of June 1959 was of the order of 72,300 acres against which the actual irrigation in 1959-60 was of the order of 61,900 acres. Thus, 85 per cent. of the potential created has been utilised. On the weir schemes in Western Maharashtra, against the irrigation potential of about 11,800 acres, an area of about 2,800 acres was actually irrigated. These weir schemes provide for monsoon irrigation and utilisation is expected to improve when irrigators take to cultivation of wet crops. Government is taking steps to have demonstration farm plots to acquaint the irrigators with the benefits of wet irrigation, which will create demand for water during the monsoon. The medium irrigation schemes in Marathwada are all storage schemes. The irrigation potential created towards the end of June 1959 was about 22,900 acres against which the actual irrigation in 1959-60 was about 13,660 acres. Thus, 61 per cent. of the available potential has been utilised. The irrigation management so far was with the Revenue Department as a successor to

the ex-Hyderabad State administration. The management has recently been taken over by the Irrigation and Power Department with a view to speeding up the utilisation and bringing the same on systematic lines comparable with irrigation works in Western Maharashtra. Some staff from irrigation works in Western Maharashtra has also been detailed for work in Marathwada to achieve the objects in view. It is proposed to have the question of utilisation of waters on certain projects examined by special units. These units will try to solve the difficulties of irrigators and endeavour to achieve full utilisation of irrigation potential.

24 Another matter that calls for urgent and careful attention concerns the stepping up of the pace of industrialisation in the State. With a view to initiating the process of change from a "rural" to an "agro-industrial" economy it will be the special endeavour of Government to promote small-scale and village industries and also to establish industrial estates rapidly. It is proposed to set up a State Development Corporation, to which specific industrial areas could be entrusted both for execution and management. You are, of course, aware that Government has already set up a Board of Industrial Development to co-ordinate the activities of different agencies working in this field. Government proposes to encourage the establishment of industries in private as well as public sector by playing a positive role and offering all possible assistance in the matter of securing land, water, power and good communications.

25 The Koyna Hydro Electric Project is our mainstay in respect of power. The first unit of 60,000 KW. of the Koyna Project under the first stage will be commissioned towards the end of this year and it is expected that the Koyna-Sholapur transmission scheme will also be ready by that time. This should relieve to a considerable extent the acute shortage of power felt for some time now in the Kolhapur region, while opening up fresh possibilities of industrial development in new areas to which power would be transmitted in course of time. Having regard to the growing requirements of power in the Bombay-Koyna region, Government

has also decided to implement the second stage of the Koyna Project with an installed capacity of 3,00,000 KW. in continuation of Stage I. Government is considering the question of obtaining a further loan from the World Bank for Stage II construction as has already been done for the first stage. In Vidarbha, the second 30,000 KW. turbo alternator was put into commercial operation in May last and the installation of a new 30,000 KW. station at Paras in Akola is also expected to be completed and the station commissioned very soon.

26. Closely linked with the problem of industrial development is the one of mineral exploration. The work undertaken in this field is proposed to be further intensified with a regular programme of field survey and mapping. The House will be interested to know that the Central Government has sanctioned the establishment of a low shaft furnace pig-iron and steel plant in Vidarbha to exploit the local resources of iron ore and coal. The National Coal Development Corporation will also be planning for the exploitation of the Vidarbha coals to a large extent.

27. The target of introducing universal education for the age group 7-11 in the Western Maharashtra area will have been achieved by the end of the Second Plan. As a result of extension of universal primary education to the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions, it was necessary to increase the number of trained teachers and hence 25 new training colleges for primary teachers have been opened. In order to help the Janpad Sabhas in Vidarbha to undertake the programme of expansion of primary education, Government has raised the grants to the level of the grants given in Western Maharashtra to District School Boards. The programme of conversion of ordinary schools into basic schools is progressing according to schedule, and at the end of the Second Plan 3,506 schools out of the 33,000 will have been converted into basic institutions. A unique feature in regard to the expansion of basic education is the campaign conducted in Satara District for securing land for basic schools in villages through voluntary donations. More than 150 villages have secured suitable land as a result of the

campaign. Another campaign in Satara District that needs mention is the social education drive—"Gram Shikshan Mohim". There is heartening response from the people with regard to this drive for the liquidation of illiteracy.

28 A major event in the field of secondary education has been the implementation of some of the more important recommendations of the Integration Committee. The pay scales of secondary teachers have been revised in the light of the recommendations of this Committee. The percentage of grants-in-aid to these schools has also been revised and the urban schools now get grants-in-aid of 45 per cent. of approved expenditure.

29 The Government of Maharashtra reviewed in June 1960 the orders passed by the ex-Bombay Government regarding revision of fees and, with a view mainly to avoiding hardships to parents, decided that there should be no fee rise over the 1959-60 level. The view taken was that before a fee rise was allowed, it was necessary to ascertain whether the schools would be in a position to meet their liabilities with the existing rates of fees. The new pay scales for teachers in non-Government secondary schools came into effect from 1st November 1959 and the full impact of the consequent enhanced expenditure would be known only when the extra expenditure on this account for the current year is known. Government has been receiving representations from managements of non-Government secondary schools in Nagpur Division that since their fee rates are lower than those in Western Maharashtra, they are not in a position to meet their liability on account of the enhanced salary scales and allowances. Government is carefully studying the situation, but in the meanwhile it has decided to provide an additional amount of Rs. 15 lakhs for paying *ad hoc* grants to such of the non-Government secondary schools in Nagpur Division as are found to have *bona fide* large deficits during the current year. The position will be reviewed early next year.

30 The demand for higher education is on the increase and it is very gratifying to note that institutions are coming forth

to meet this demand. As many as 23 colleges have come into existence all over the State during the current year, out of which 12 are located in Western Maharashtra, 6 in Vidarbha and 5 in Marathwada.

31 Technical education continues to receive special attention of Government and the number of institutions imparting this type of education is increasing apace. There are now six engineering colleges, 14 polytechnics, 45 technical high schools and 19 industrial training institutions functioning in the State.

32 I am also happy to inform the honourable members that the Government of India has decided to establish one of the military preparatory schools to be known as "Sainiki Schools" in Maharashtra and it is proposed to locate this institution in Satara. This decision, I have no doubt, will be widely welcomed as the establishment of such an institution will go a long way in helping young men to make the best of the opportunities for developing their talents.

33 The activities of the Social Welfare Department have been manifold and are not confined to the Department itself. It is realised that social welfare services are but a part of the social services. Consequently, every effort is being made to co-ordinate its own activities with the activities conducted by other Departments like Education, Public Health, Co-operation, Revenue, Forests, Housing, etc. Apart from taking up multifarious schemes for the welfare of the Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes and Tribes, certain other communities, like the Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, have also been receiving the earnest attention of the State Government. Government has been concerning itself with providing more and more facilities for the rehabilitation of special groups of the socially and physically handicapped persons, particularly women and children. The old Bombay State Government, to which the Maharashtra Government is the successor, has done pioneering work in implementing suitable social legislation for the education, training and rehabilitation of delinquent and destitute children, women and girls exposed to physical or moral dangers and certain categories of offenders

who, given a chance, could become useful citizens. At present, the Bombay Beggars' Act, 1945, has been applied only to Greater Bombay. Negotiations are afoot with the Municipal Corporations of Poona and Nagpur for the application of the Act and setting up of the necessary machinery in the two cities as early as possible.

34 For the implementation of the various legislative measures, Government has been running about 15 institutions and giving grants to over 250 voluntary institutions. In addition, for the education and welfare of the physically handicapped, such as the blind, deaf-mutes and crippled, Government also administers 6 Government institutions and gives grants to over 35 voluntary institutions.

35 Other activities which have a bearing on the cultural development of the people have been receiving considerable encouragement from the State Government. The recent Dance, Drama and Music Festivals (Mahotsavas) held all over the State, which have now become a regular governmental activity, are an instance in point. Government is thus doing everything possible for the promotion of art and culture. For the education of public opinion and enlightenment of the people in regard to the welfare programmes sponsored or aided by the State, the media of Kalapathaks, summer camps, social service camps and audio-visual education are being freely availed of.

36 During the year, Government has made considerable headway in the promotion of medical aid and public health facilities. The existing hospitals and dispensaries in cities, mofussil towns and taluka places have been expanded; more equipment and staff have been provided and the general standard of the institutions has been sought to be raised in every way for the benefit and facility of the public. A number of construction works are in progress throughout the State, such as new buildings for hospitals, cottage hospitals, primary health centres and staff quarters. Among them are the new building of the J. J. Hospital (which will also have a storey for the residential accommodation of the stipendiary staff) and new hospital buildings at Sangli, Satara, Ahmednagar, Ratnagiri



and Chanda, while those for Kolhapur, Nasik and Bhir have been sanctioned. Among the cottage hospitals, those at Kalwan in Nasik District and at Karad in Satara District have been completed and have started functioning, while those at Mangaon in Kolaba and at Shirpur in Dhulia Districts are under construction. A cottage hospital for Taloda in the Adiwasi area of Dhulia District has also been sanctioned. A new spacious out-patient ward at the J. J. Hospital in Bombay has been built and has started functioning. The new building of the dental hospital in the compound of the St. George's Hospital is nearing completion. The work on the first Government hospital for insured persons under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme at Worli has commenced. The work of the 600-bedded hospital for insured persons under the joint auspices of the Corporation, the State and the employers is also nearing completion at Parel and is expected to start functioning from this year. Land has been obtained for hospitals for industrial workers at Nagpur and is being acquired at Mulund and Chembur. Government has also taken over the Uttarwar Hospital in Yeotmal District and is making improvements in the hospital in the Adiwasi area of Jawhar. At Aurangabad, a new building for a medical college hospital is under construction. A new dental college building for Nagpur has been sanctioned. In addition to the existing quarters for nurses at various places, nine more have been sanctioned, of which seven are under construction.

37 Among other outstanding achievements during the year in the Health Department have been the starting of India's first Eye Bank at the J. J. Hospital and the second one, more recently, at Amravati.

38 Besides this, the extension of medical benefits to families of insured persons at Nagpur—to be shortly provided also to Hinganghat and Akola ; the increase in the number of admissions of medical students to Government medical colleges ; starting of a daily diabetic clinic and domiciliary service for treatment of T. B. patients at Nagpur and two very useful and successful campaigns recently conducted, namely for raising

consciousness for and making collections of blood from donors and promoting the scheme of family planning have been the additional features of the year's activities. For effective control of tuberculosis, a State Board has been set up ; more beds in hospitals have been added ; more clinics opened ; mass X-ray and a domiciliary service started at Nagpur, and the B. C. G. campaign intensified.

39 In addition to the two Government, out of the 16 Ayurvedic college hospitals in the State, one more is being added at Nagpur which is now in the final stage of construction. A number of Ayurvedic dispensaries and S. M. P. Centres were added during the year.

40 Another problem to which the State has been paying particular attention is leprosy for which 210 institutions have been set up for controlling it. A campaign is being planned for persuading more of its victims to take advantage of the centres by impressing upon them and others that the disease is curable and is not as infectious as it is feared.

41 An important feature of the public health service is the family planning scheme, and I am glad to note that it is receiving very good response, especially in the rural areas of the State. There are at present 156 rural and 108 urban centres carrying on the campaign of family planning. Special camps are held to carry out vasectomy operations, and hundreds of people are coming forward to avail themselves of these facilities.

42 In the matter of urban water supply, 117 schemes have been sanctioned, of which 75 have been completed—nearly 25 of them in the course of this year. The latest important addition to the sanctioned schemes is the Bhima Water Supply Scheme in Sholapur District, on which construction work has just started. Among the twenty-five important ones completed or nearing completion are those at Bhusaval in Jalgaon District, in the Adiwasi area of Jawhar and also at Dombivli in Thana District, at Panvel and Mahad in Kolaba District, at Phaltan in Satara District, at Palthan and Kanad in Aurangabad District,

at Khamgaon in Buldhana and Vani in Yeotmal, while substantial improvements have been made in the Ratnagiri, Satara and Thana Water Supply Schemes and also at Matheran, Lonavala and Mahableshwar.

43 In the process of change over from a "rural" to an "agro-industrial" economy, co-operation has to play a very important role in the economic development of our State. "Co-operation", which has taken deep roots in the State, now embraces many spheres of economic activity like agricultural credit, marketing, farming, processing of agricultural produce, village and small scale industries, fisheries, housing, lift irrigation, dairying, paddy cultivation, etc. The integrated co-operative credit structure, which has been built up on sound and healthy lines in our State, is now in a position to undertake financing of agricultural production and industrial activities to a larger extent. With the assistance from Government and the Reserve Bank of India and the co-operation of the co-operative institutions at the various levels and with the increasing resources of their own, the integrated co-operative credit structure of the State is confident of achieving the targets of Rs. 100 crores as short term, Rs. 8 crores as medium term and Rs. 50 crores as long term advances by the end of the Third Five-Year Plan period.

44 The marketing and the processing societies play a prominent role in the rural credit structure by affording better returns to agriculturists. To enable agriculturists to obtain a fair price for their agricultural produce, a net-work of (i) co-operative marketing societies at the base and the apex co-operative marketing society at the top, (ii) regulation of marketing, (iii) construction of godowns and (iv) establishment of warehouses through the agencies of the Central and State Warehousing Corporations has been set up covering some areas. In the sphere of co-operative processing of agricultural produce, co-operative sugar factories occupy a prominent place in our State. Five new co-operative sugar projects have been licensed by the Government of India and they are expected to go into production during the 1962-63 season. Other

processing societies include 23 cotton ginning and pressing, 16 rice mills, 4 oil mills and 8 other miscellaneous types of processing societies. Five co-operative societies for the establishment of industrial estates have been registered. A co-operative spinning mill at Ichalkaranji has also been licensed by the Government of India.

45 The Maharashtra Co-operative Housing Finance Society has obtained a loan of Rs. 1 crore from the Life Insurance Corporation of India to enable it to finance the housing projects of co-operative housing societies.

46 The overall expenditure on road development during the Second Plan period will be very considerably in excess of the original allocation. Special mention should be made of new roads, projected through the areas of each of the sugar factories. Underdeveloped areas of Vidarbha and Marathwada are being given special attention and many road and bridge works have been sanctioned for construction with a view to providing transport facilities so urgently required there. Missing road links and important bridges which have now been sanctioned for construction will certainly fulfil the transport requirements of the Vidarbha and Marathwada areas of the State.

47 There are 49 ports on the west coast of Maharashtra. These include the port of Ratnagiri which is proposed for being built as an all-weather intermediate port. Government has decided to take over the administration of the minor ports from the Collector of Central Excise who was administering them up till now. The process of taking over these ports is in progress.

48 In Small Savings, the State, always outstanding in its achievements, has exceeded all expectations, this year. As against Rs. 10.80 crores net collected up to the end of December last year, Rs. 15.25 crores is the estimated collection this year for the corresponding period. Six districts including Greater Bombay have exceeded their targets and others are well on the way. Thus, it will be seen that over 75 per cent. of the net target of Rs. 19 crores has already been achieved.

49 In Tourism, a Directorate and a State Board for Tourism have been set up and started functioning. The existing string of low income holiday camps is being expanded to accommodate the rush of visitors and new ones are proposed at Panchgani, Vajreshwari, Khindsi Talao and Purandhar. A new Trekking and Hiking Scheme has been started and become very popular. A number of excursions are regularly organised to Ajanta-Ellora, both from Bombay and Nagpur, to the environments of Bombay, to Mahableswar and, the latest addition, to the Purandhar fort from Poona. It is also proposed to organise a regular instructional excursion to Koynanagar. A large-scale All India Exhibition of Tourism in which the Government of India and a number of States are participating is due to open this month.

50 The Maharashtra Housing Board has constructed over 5,500 houses so far, and more than 750 houses have been completed recently. Government has sanctioned a programme of construction of about 6,000 tenements in Greater Bombay under the slum clearance scheme to provide residential accommodation to hutment dwellers. About 3,000 of these tenements are built at Vikroli and the remaining at Goregaon. The colony at Goregaon was declared open on January 1, 1961, by the Prime Minister. The subsidised industrial housing scheme is also making good progress. More than 17,000 tenements have been constructed under this scheme in Bombay, Nagpur, Pulgaon, Jalna, etc., and construction of over 3,800 more tenements is in progress.

51 With the Third Plan unfolding itself, the people in this State will be called upon to shoulder bigger responsibilities and make greater sacrifices. I have not the least doubt in my mind that, as the accredited leaders of the people, you will provide them the necessary guidance, leadership and inspiration.

I wish you God-speed and a useful and successful session.

“JAI-HIND!”