



---

**JOINT SESSION OF THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE AT BOMBAY**

# **ADDRESS**

**DELIVERED BY**

**Dr. P. V. CHERIAN**

**GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA**



**15th February, 1965**

**PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS, BOMBAY**

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

This is the first occasion when I am addressing the joint session of this Legislature after assuming office as Governor. I am very happy to welcome you to this session.

1.2. Since my predecessor addressed such a joint session last year, our country has passed through very critical times. Our beloved leader, Shri Jawaharlalji passed away suddenly on the 27th May 1964. With his passing away ended an era in the history of our country. He left behind for us a glorious heritage, to preserve which is our great duty. The best tribute which we can pay him is to help build up a democratic and socialistic society which had always been his dream.

1.3. During the last year, China exploded its first atomic bomb. Our Prime Minister has rightly expressed the desire of this country for not going in for the manufacture of such a bomb, even though this country is quite capable of producing it. We firmly believe in disarmament in general and nuclear disarmament in particular.

2. We should not, however, be complacent and unprepared. My Government, therefore, has been doing its best to contribute its share in the general defence preparedness of the country. Maharashtra has made a sustained contribution to the recruitment to the Defence Forces and also the National Defence Fund. The progress of constructing armament factories which Government has undertaken on behalf of the Defence Ministry has been more than satisfactory during the year. The Ordnance Factory at Varangaon has already gone into production. The construction of the Aircraft Factory at Ozar near Nasik and of the Ambazari Ordnance Factory near Nagpur continues to make satisfactory progress.

3. Turning to another urgent task, the food supply position in the State has been a source of anxiety to my Government during the last year. Maharashtra is a deficit State as far as food grains are

concerned. This problem becomes more acute in the case of a metropolis like Bombay, and other big cities and industrial centres like Nagpur, Poona and Sholapur. Government is making all efforts to get the necessary quantities of food grains both from the Central Government and the surplus States. Government of India have now agreed to give us rice and as regards wheat, my Government has been pressing Government of India either to abolish the wheat zones or attach this State to some State or States surplus in wheat.

3.2. Government has taken various steps to ensure equitable distribution of food grains at reasonable prices, through a net work of fair price shops.

3.3. In addition, Government has also undertaken measures for purchase and procurement of foodgrains within the State. Steps have been taken to have surplus stocks declared. Government has also fixed statutory maximum wholesale and retail prices of paddy, rice and jowar in order to protect the interest of the consumer. During the last year there have been wide fluctuations in the price of jowar. My Government has therefore decided to purchase as much as possible of the marketable surplus of jowar during this season on a monopoly basis by offering a price which is one of the highest in India. The purchases are being made through the Maharashtra State Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd., Bombay and its constituents. This is an unique experiment of carrying out a monopoly operation through co-operative societies.

3.4. Government has also decided to procure paddy and rice during this season for distribution as well as for building a buffer stock. Government has made it compulsory for millers and dealers to sell 100 per cent. of the quantity of rice with them to the Government.

3.5. Government is closely watching the progress of these measures taken to procure jowar and rice. It is confident that with the co-operation of the people it would be able to achieve satisfactory results.

4. Government has continued to take vigorous steps for increasing agricultural production and especially production of foodgrains in the State. The High Level Agricultural Production Committee

with the Chief Minister as Chairman, has been co-ordinating and guiding the efforts of Government for increased agricultural production. The achievements during the last year under the various schemes for increasing agricultural output have been satisfactory. The programme of digging new wells and repairing old ones for irrigation purposes is being vigorously pursued as before and the number of air compressor units for digging wells by blasting has now been increased from 65 to 250. During the current year 13,000 pumps will also be installed as targetted.

4.2. With the idea of intensifying the efforts for increased agricultural production, Kharif and Rabi crop campaigns had been started in the past. So far the objective of these campaigns was restricted only to adoption of improved agricultural production methods. From the current year, Government has decided to give special attention to specific works such as forming new paddy lands and plant protection measures for Jowar. This year these intensified efforts are being continued in the Rabi season also. A new feature of this year is to give special attention for bringing more area under Rabi cultivation and to give free water supply from the newly constructed irrigation projects, free supply of insecticides and subsidised supply of fertiliser mixtures.

4.3. From this year a special summer campaign is started to concentrate efforts on paddy and groundnut. Cultivation of summer paddy is being encouraged in the coastal districts of the State.

4.4. Government has also decided to launch crash programmes in specific fields. Accordingly, schemes for production of fruit in selected areas ; for increasing fruit production for export purposes ; and for production of disease-free seed potatoes have been undertaken.

4.5. The most important item in the Agricultural Programme is foodgrains production in which we are trying to achieve self-sufficiency. The first two years of the Plan were unfavourable to agriculture due to floods and draughts in several parts of the State. It will require unremitting efforts on the part of all of us, whether in the field or in charge of planning and direction, to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains production and to wipe out the deficit during

the remaining period of the Third Plan and during the Fourth Plan. In the case of Cotton and Sugarcane, our performance is much better and we have shown outstanding increase in yield of sugarcane and also in improved varieties of cotton.

4.6. We are applying, the package approach for intensification of paddy, jowar, cotton and oilseeds cultivation. Our performance in Soil Conservation and Minor Irrigation has been outstanding in the whole country. It is evident that unless we protect our soils, the expenditure on manure, fertilisers and improved seeds etc., will be of no avail. It is estimated that in all about 41 lakh acres of land have been protected by soil conservation measures in the State by the end of 1963-64 and it is expected that about 31 lakh acres of land will be protected in the last two years of the Third Plan.

4.7. We have also undertaken a special development programme to increase the production of eggs, poultry, milk and meat as rapidly as possible. A poultry processing plant will be established at Poona and a bacon factory at Bombay.

4.8. My Government has taken steps to encourage cultivators to grow food rather than cash crops by declaring prices of foodgrains well in advance of the cultivating season.

5. The year 1965-66 is the last year of the Third Five-Year Plan. This is, therefore, an appropriate time for review of its progress. In the initial period of the Plan, the normal difficulties of implementation of Plan schemes were gravely aggravated by major disasters and calamities, which necessitated the diversion of very substantial funds for relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons. The National Emergency also called for the re-arrangement of priorities within the plan so as to ensure the full development of its vital sectors even at the cost of progress in the less essential schemes. The non-availability of foreign exchange continued to be one of our major difficulties. It is therefore particularly gratifying to note that in spite of these increased difficulties, this State will have incurred an expenditure of over Rs. 420 crores on its Third Plan, while the original outlay approved by the Planning Commission was just over Rs. 390 crores. This performance must be attributed largely to the satisfactory mobilisation of resources in this State and of the growth of

---

our technical and organisational capacity to implement plan schemes in various sectors.

6. Government has also been paying great attention to the mobilisation of resources other than receipts from taxation. I am very happy that this year also Maharashtra has maintained its foremost position in the country in the collection under the Small Savings Scheme. These collections this year are expected to exceed those during the last year (i.e. about Rs. 30 crores).

It is the declared policy of Government that industrialisation should benefit the economy of the State as a whole. Consequently the question of dispersal of industries has been engaging the attention of Government for some time past. For historical reasons, industry has been heavily concentrated in the Bombay-Poona region. It is, therefore, one of the foremost objectives of Government to make facilities available for industrial expansion in new areas. The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation is doing excellent work in this direction through establishment of industrial estates and development of industrial areas all over the State. With a view, however, to give an impetus to the establishment and development of industries in backward areas of the State, Government has decided to grant to prospective industries a number of incentives, such as, guaranteeing of loans, subsidizing electricity tariffs, exemption from Sales-tax, subsidizing octroi rates, exemption from water royalties and non-agricultural assessment etc. Most of these concessions would continue for an initial period of 13 years. My Government, therefore earnestly hopes that entrepreneurs will now come forward to take advantage of these concessions and establish industrial units in different parts of the State.

7. Looking to the acute shortage of cement which is responsible for slowing down of a number of Plan Schemes, Government has decided to set up a cement factory as a joint sector venture. The capacity of this factory would be about 1 lakh tonnes per year.

8. In the field of labour, minimum rates of wages have been fixed or revised in respect of 9 scheduled industries under the Minimum Wages Act. Committees have also been appointed to fix



or revise the minimum rates of wages in paper and paper board manufacture and in shops and commercial establishments. Reports have now been received in respect of employment in certain industries like road construction and building operations, rice, dal and flour mills, stone breaking and stone crushing and local authorities. They are under the consideration of Government. In September 1964 Government had appointed a tripartite Committee called the "Norms Committee" for evolving norms in respect of various matters which form a subject of industrial dispute in specified industries. This is intended to help both the employers and employees. It is expected that these measures would bring about some degree of standardization.

9. The Co-operative Movement gathered further momentum during the year. Monopoly purchase of jowar is now being done through the co-operatives. We are also using this agency for running fair-price shops and for mobilisation of rural savings through rural debentures. We are pioneers in using co-operatives in industry. As is well known, the co-operative sugar factories of this State have been an outstanding success. We have also an ambitious programme for the organisation of 30 co-operative spinning mills, 12 of which have already been registered. So far, licences have been issued in the case of 20 Co-operatives and two mills have already gone into production. A new scheme of formation of lift irrigation societies through co-operative sugar factories was finalised during the last year. 13 such lift irrigation societies have already been organised with a command area of 9,000 acres.

10. The various milk supply schemes registered a satisfactory progress during the year. Expansion of the Poona Dairy Scheme is nearing completion. Machinery is being installed for the Naisk and Sholapur Milk Schemes in their new buildings. Machinery valued at Rs. 17 lakhs has been purchased under Danish credit for the Krishna Valley Milk Project at Miraj. Side by side, schemes for intensive cattle development are undertaken in adjoining areas. Such a project at Miraj has made satisfactory progress. Ancillary industries are also being established in these areas. A ghee refinery has been started at Udgir and manufacture of cheese on an experimental basis has also begun at Panchgani.

11. We have a long coast line and my Government has taken vigorous steps to develop fish as a major source of wholesome supplementary food. We now lead in the mechanisation of fishing boats. There are nearly 2600 mechanised fishing boats in the whole country and out of them, as many as 1700 are in our State. We have now started giving 100 per cent. assistance in loan and subsidy to fishermen to purchase marine engines. A survey of fishing areas is already on to locate new and rich fishing grounds near the coast. The four exploratory vessels have so far surveyed an area of 5500 square kilometers and have located rich fishing grounds near Pawas and Malwan in Ratnagiri district. The first fish cannery in the public sector in this State has started functioning at Malwan which will ensure proper utilisation of surplus fish caught during the season. Government hopes that others will follow the example set by Government and establish similar plants in the State. Preservation facilities are also proposed to be provided at Bombay and at Ratnagiri. For this purpose Government has taken over from the Central Government the ice factory, cold storage and quick freezing plant at the Sassoon Docks. Erection of machinery for the ice factory at Ratnagiri is nearing completion.

12. The progress regarding completion of major irrigation projects was satisfactory during the year. The Girna and Mula Projects are in an advanced stage of construction. Russian earth moving machinery worth Rs. 40 lakhs is being purchased for expediting Mula Project. The construction work of the Ghod Dam in the Poona District including the installation of gates will be completed before the monsoon. The work on the second stage of the Manar Project has already started. The Siddheshwar Project is complete except for fixing the gates. Irrigation has already begun on the Nalganga project and with the fixing of gates by June 1965 the work of the construction of the dam would be over. The work of filling the gorge of the Bor project will be complete by June 1965 and this will enable us to give water for irrigation from October 1965. The fixing of the gates will be completed by June 1966. The report of the Maharashtra State Irrigation Commission was recently discussed by you at Nagpur. Action for implementing its recommendations has already been initiated. Planning of future projects



and their investigation are also proceeding simultaneously. The Godavari project has now been cleared by the Planning Commission and it will, when completed, transform the whole face of Marathwada. A study group on irrigation and power has already been appointed to make a critical review for formulating detailed proposals for the Fourth Plan. The State Government has forwarded Project Reports for 10 admitted projects to the Planning Commission, out of which approval for 6 has been received so far.

13. The work of generating electricity and electrification of rural areas is proceeding with full speed. The expansion at Khaparkheda has now been completed. A similar work at Paras and Bhusaval is expected to be completed next year. These projects would help form a bigger Vidarbha-Marathwada Grid. Simultaneously, the transmission net work is also being expanded. Advance action is being taken for major generating schemes at Purli and at Nasik. The work on the Koyna Hydro Electric Project is proceeding satisfactorily. All the four generating sets under Stage II are expected to be commissioned in the Third Plan period. It is gratifying to note that the Koyna third stage has now been finally approved by the Planning Commission. Advance action is being taken for the Bhatgar and Vir Hydro Electric Projects.

13.2. The rural electrification programme of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board is being implemented satisfactorily. So far, about 2600 villages have been electrified by the end of September 1964. This number is likely to be well over 3200 by the end of the Third Plan period.

14. Considering the area of the State, the existing mileage of roads is totally inadequate. A number of Plan schemes aiming at completion of missing links on Highways and construction of other categories of roads are therefore under implementation. The work on the Eastern and Western Highways in Greater Bombay and Thana proceeded satisfactorily and major portions of these Highways were thrown open to traffic recently.

14.2. The Diva-Panvel-Uran Railway line was opened to traffic recently. Government treats the proposed Diva-Goa Railway line

as one of the most important means of opening up the coastal areas of the State. Government is also happy to find that the coastal passenger services are being improved. M/s. Chowgule Steam-ships Ltd. would be putting three new ships with modern amenities on the Konkan coast. The first ship has already started serving the area. Government hopes that the two other ships would join early.

15. Government has constituted a Board of Urban Development to advise Government on the problems of Urban Local bodies regarding water supply, drainage and sanitation, public health and medical facilities etc. Government also appointed a special Consulting Surveyor to scrutinise the Bombay Development Plan prepared by the Bombay Municipal Corporation on the basis of anticipated growth and needs in the ensuing 20 years.

15.2. At present the Municipalities in the State are governed by four different Municipal Acts. It is very desirable to have an uniform pattern of Municipal administration in the State. Government hopes to bring the necessary legislation for this purpose during this session.

15.3. Government is negotiating with the Government of India for establishment of a Regional Medical Post-Graduate Teaching and Research Institute at Bombay. Government has agreed to spare beds and equipment in the J. J. Group of Hospitals for such an Institution. Government has reason to hope that this Institution will start functioning from June next, with an intake of 50 students of which at least 25 will be from our State.

15.4. Our housing programme continues to make good progress in spite of shortage of cement and other building materials. The Maharashtra Housing Board and Vidarbha Housing Board have considerably stepped up their activities in the different areas of the State with the result that the housing programme undertaken this year exceeds any undertaken in previous years.

16. A steady progress was maintained during the year regarding the expansion of primary education. The Zilla Parishads were allowed to create 6500 additional posts of primary school teachers. The Zilla Parishads will thus be able to provide schooling facilities to

almost all the villages in their areas with a population of 200 and more. In the field of Secondary education, 249 new schools, were opened during the year.

16.2. Government has taken further steps to expand facilities for technical education. During the year, the total number of seats in Engineering Colleges was increased from 1260 to 1590. A new Engineering College with an intake of 150 students started functioning at Amravati from June 1964. Two new artisans Technical Training Centres were started, one each at Poona and Varangaon. Diploma courses in Pharmacy were also introduced at Government Polytechnics at Karad, Jalgaon and Amravati.

17. The Bombay Children's Act was made applicable throughout the State of Maharashtra thereby removing disparity between the various regions of the State in this respect.

18. Government has undertaken to resettle in this State 10,000 families of new migrants from East Pakistan. Out of these about 4,000 families have already been received in this State and accommodated in four relief Camps in the Chanda and Bhandara Districts. It is proposed to resettle them permanently on some 33,000 acres of forest land which is being reclaimed in the Chanda District. A number of measures are also being evolved for rehabilitating non-agriculturist migrants in business, industry and other pursuits.

19. The problem of rural drinking water supply is likely to remain with us for quite some time to come. Government is therefore giving special attention to tackling this question. No popular contribution is now required for such works in scarcity or flood affected areas and such areas which are predominantly tribal. Government has also increased grant-in-aid to 90 per cent. of the total cost in respect of Piped Water Supply Scheme where no other schemes are practicable. A regional Piped Water Supply Scheme at Shahapada was commissioned during the year in the Kolaba District.

19.2. The Rural Works Programme is pushed with vigour in the State. 60 new Projects were sanctioned during the year thereby bringing the total number of such projects in the State to 128.

20. I will now refer to certain other issues with which the people of the State as a whole are concerned.

20.1. Government has kept you informed from time to time of the developments regarding the solution of our border dispute with Mysore State. As you are aware, the next step is now for the Government of India to take. I can only assure you that my Government will continue its efforts for a speedy and satisfactory solution of this dispute.

20.2. The people of this State have been very much concerned with the developments in Goa. Only recently the Legislative Assembly there passed a resolution recommending merger of the territory with this State. My Government sincerely hopes that the Government of India would respect this resolution which reflects popular desire expressed through the elected representatives.....

20.3. My Government and the people of this State are greatly exercised over the unresolved problem of the allocation of waters of the Krishna and the Godavari between this State, Andhra Pradesh and Mysore. Protracted negotiations are still going on between the Central Government and these States. Government hopes that the problem would be solved satisfactorily and without any further loss of time on the basis of an equitable distribution of these waters amongst all the States concerned.

20.4. An Official Languages Bill has been passed by you in your Nagpur session for the introduction of Marathi in all official correspondence of the State. Necessary preliminary steps are being taken to switch over to Marathi from English as early as possible.

21. We are living through a period of great stress and strain. But the people of Maharashtra have always risen nobly to the challenge of our times. The tasks which we have undertaken after gaining independence are gathering momentum. We have had our setbacks as well as our gains. Let us proceed with our task in the same confident spirit with which we took them up, having constantly before us the thought that the welfare of this State and of its people are inseparable from those of the nation at large. With this hope, I now leave you to your labours.