



ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

Shri ALI YAVAR JUNG

GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA

JOINT SESSION OF THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE AT BOMBAY

24th February 1975

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

I am happy to welcome you to the Budget Session of the Legislature.

2. After three continuous years of scarcity, 1973-74 was blessed with a good monsoon and the foodgrain production reached 72.4 lakh tonnes. The 1974-75 monsoon was also good though it had some unsatisfactory features. In consequence, the overall agricultural situation is satisfactory on the whole and we are expecting food-crop production of approximately 77 lakh tonnes.

3. The food situation has always been a matter of concern to the State being a deficit State in this respect. The position is being constantly reviewed and remedial action taken. This year proved to be slightly better as compared to the previous year due to lifting of the inter-State restrictions on the movement and sale of coarse grains in the entire country and modification in the policy of take-over of whole-sale trade in wheat by the Government of India in the beginning of the year under which levy-paid wheat was allowed to be exported to deficit States. The position became a little difficult in July-August 1974, when on account of imposition of ceilings on the selling prices of levy-paid wheat in Maharashtra, at the behest of the Government of India, the open market arrivals of wheat decreased. The order relating to the ceiling prices on wheat was withdrawn with effect from the 4th September 1974, which improved the supply position once again. The over-all availability position for the public distribution system, however, continued to be critical due to reduced monthly allotments from 1974 onwards, from the Government of India.

If the Government of India meets our full demand of 2 lakh tonnes of cereals per month and if we also procure 13 lakh tonnes by levy and local purchases, then my Government will be in a position to distribute a quantum of 7 kg in rural areas in addition to prescribed quantum in Bombay Rationing Area, Poona and

Nagpur cities, as per the demand of labourers and non-agriculturists in rural areas. My Government is, therefore, pressing the Centre to allot at least 2 lakh tonnes per month during the ensuing year. If, however, there is reduction in the central allotment as apprehended or a shortfall in the procurement of levy or both, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to maintain the higher or even the present level of distribution, unless means are found to meet the deficit.

The State Government is pursuing a five-pronged policy for meeting this deficit, *viz.*, a levy on producers, a levy on traders, a levy on cultivators of cash crops, open market purchases of jowar, paddy and rice through co-operatives from within the State and purchases from surplus States. The open market purchases will be made at reasonable market rates.

The supply position of certain other commodities, *viz.*, kerosene and vanaspati caused some anxiety during the year. Due to reduced allocation to this State, Government had to resort to distribution of kerosene on cards in the Bombay Rationing Area. The price situation of other commodities including edible oils, sugar, etc., continued to cause anxiety during this year also. The Government of India have launched a series of measures to arrest the rising trends and bring about the fall in prices. My Government will continue to co-operate in all the efforts for bringing down the general price-line.

4. In the matter of milk production, we seem to have made a breakthrough this year, which has been a good milk year. The extended monsoon, the spurt in calvings, the greater availability of cattle, the cross-breeding programme and above all the encouraging prices paid to the producers have all had their share in this. The distribution by the Government Milk Scheme in Greater Bombay has reached an all time high figure of nearly 6.4 lakh litres a day. In the next year, it should be possible to augment steadily the distribution to reach a million litres a day in Bombay. Milk product plants are also proposed to be set up at a few places with a view to balance the supplies between the flush season and the lean season. Milk production is beginning to play an increasing part in providing a subsidiary occupation to the farmers and particularly the small and marginal farmers.

5. The Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme has been in operation in the State from 1972-73 cotton season. Government is keen to implement the scheme which is conceived in the best interest of the cotton growers. It gives them a guaranteed price, plus a share in the profits, if made, and frees them from the fluctuations of market and the clutches of the middlemen. During the current cotton year, due to the restrictive credit policy of the Government of India, adequate finance could not be made available by the Reserve Bank of India. The cotton growers however, realising the useful and beneficial nature of the scheme, have agreed to accept reduced payment to begin with. An Ordinance has been issued to give a legal basis for this reduced payment. The linking of recovery of co-operative loans with the payment for purchases made by the Government has had a salutary effect on the flow of credit to agriculturists. A fairly good crop of cotton is expected, and it is hoped that with the continued co-operation of the cultivators, the scheme will prove a great success.

6. The Irrigation Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited of which a mention was made in the last address has started functioning. As a result, an irrigation potential of 86,000 hectares will be created. The Corporation proposes to undertake new Lift Irrigation Schemes and create a potential of one lakh acres every year hereafter. An amendment Act enabling the Corporation to levy water rates in respect of the lift irrigation schemes under its control has been passed last year.

Government has also implemented the Scheme of Command Area Development authorities and an authority with Command Area Development Commissioner and Secretary in Irrigation and Power Department as its head has been set up in Sachivalaya to co-ordinate the working in respect of the various Government departments concerned with the development of Command Area under Selected Major Irrigation Projects. A high power Sub-Committee of the Cabinet lays down broad policies and guidelines for integrated development programme for the Command Areas. An organisation has been set up to cover the irrigation development in all the 25 districts. It is hoped that in the coming year these steps will help achieve substantial additional utilisation of the irrigation potential created.

Consequent on the declaration of the decision by the Tribunal in the Krishna Water Dispute, the Central Water and Power Commission has cleared 8 Medium Projects in the Krishna Basin. Government is pursuing the question of clearance of remaining projects with the Central Water and Power Commission and has been pressing the Centre for arranging for a meeting of all the Chief Engineers of the concerned States in Godavari Basin as proposed by the Government of India so that pending decision of the Tribunal a consensus may be arrived at for a certain minimum programme which could be allowed to be undertaken by all the Godavari Basin States.

The Inter-State Control Board set up for implementing the Joint Irrigation and Hydro Projects of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh States, to which a reference was made last year, has been quite active and done commendable work. It has cleared a number of projects both Irrigation and Hydro Projects of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to the mutual advantage of both the States.

7. The objective of dispersal of industries and balanced regional development has been the corner stone of the industrial policy of the State Government and towards this end, a series of incentives have been given by my Government to encourage industries to prefer locations in the developing areas of the State, outside the Bombay-Poona-Thana belt. The results achieved in this direction during the last few years are certainly encouraging.

The new policy for location of industries for the Bombay Metropolitan Region envisages the creation of four zones in the region, after taking into account the concentration of industries in the area and further scope for setting up new industries.

8. Ratnagiri, Chandrapur and Aurangabad are declared as specially selected backward districts, which are eligible for grant of 15 per cent Central Subsidy. In the light of the experience gained, it is felt that as a long term strategy it will be useful to develop certain growth centres in each of the 13 districts declared as backward in the State in accordance with the criteria laid down by the Planning Commission. This approach is in keeping with the larger objective of dispersal of industries in the backward and developing

areas of the State and by its adoption it would be possible to create at least one growth centre in each of the backward districts in the State. The State Government has accordingly reviewed the entire question and has proposed to the Government of India to demarcate the area eligible for 15 per cent Central Subsidy, in lieu of the entire area of the three districts of Ratnagiri, Aurangabad and Chandrapur as at present. In working out the proposals for new growth centres the mineral and forest resources available in the area, availability of infrastructure like power, water as also road and railway communication facilities and the potential for developing these areas into viable growth centres, have been taken into account.

9. In order to maintain the progress of the State in the field of industry, agriculture, etc. the Maharashtra State Electricity Board has formulated a power programme for execution during the Fifth Plan period. Much ground has been covered in this respect but still much more remains to be done. The State Electricity Board is pursuing with vigour expansion of existing power stations and construction of new ones which is expected to bring in considerable quantity of additional power and ease the power position substantially.

10. The work of the new Council Hall building which is expected to cost about Rs. 6 crores, has already been taken in hand and the work of foundation and sub-structure is in full swing. It is expected that the works on the super-structure will make some headway during 1975-76.

11. A Team of the World Bank has recently visited the two prospective major fisheries ports—Agardanda in Rajapuri Creek in Kolaba district and Mirkarwada site at Ratnagiri. The House would be happy to know that after the visit to these two sites, the team considered Agardanda an ideal site for locating Fisheries Harbour. They, however, expressed their dissatisfaction at the lack of infrastructure at this site. Consequently, the Government has decided to construct road link from the Bombay-Konkan-Goa Road National Highway to provide all-weather communications to Agardanda so as to provide the infrastructure of transport which is of vital importance to the proposed Major Deep Sea Fisheries harbour at Agardanda.

12. The project report for the first leg of the Konkan railway between Apta and Dasgaon *via* Roha is ready for clearance by the Railway Board and the State Government has urged that the work on this stretch should be commenced without any further delay. The proposed construction of a Branch railway line from Roha to Agardanda is of crucial importance for the development of the fisheries harbour and the ship building yard at Agardanda. Accordingly, the Central Railway has already taken up the work of surveys for this branch railway line. Similarly, the survey works for the Konkan Railway beyond Dasgaon towards Mangalore has also been in progress.

13. The Employment Guarantee Scheme is one of the most important facets of the 15-point Programme formulated by my Government with a view to promoting accelerated economic development of the weaker sections of the Community. The aim of the scheme is to provide gainful and productive employment-gainful to the individual and productive to the community in approved works to all unskilled persons in rural areas who need and are prepared to do manual work but cannot find it anywhere. I am glad to state that both Houses of State Legislature have unanimously welcomed the scheme in the last session at Nagpur. My Government naturally attaches highest importance to the scheme and will not countenance its failure on any account. The expenditure on the scheme is regarded as a first charge on the plan budget of the State. The Government will also take care to see the money spent on the scheme produces durable assets beneficial to the State and the people and will be vigilant against all wasteful expenditure.

14. Almost 25 per cent of the State is affected by chronic conditions of drought. The Rural Works Programme sponsored by Government of India in the drought-prone areas of the six districts of the State is continued during the Fifth Plan period also. The programme in two of these districts, viz. Sholapur and Ahmednagar has been approved by the World Bank for credit from the International Development Association and the Credit Agreement has been recently signed. The Government of India have agreed to provide central assistance of Rs. 4 crores for each of the World Bank assisted districts and Rs. 2 crores to each of the remaining four districts. Since the Government of India have not so far agreed to

provide assistance for the remaining six districts, the State Government has decided to extend the coverage of the programme to these six districts from its own resources. The basic strategy in the programme is to bring about an optimal utilisation of land and water in the project area.

15. The National Development Council has accepted in principle, the adoption of an area-approach for accelerated development of important regions in the country with a view to bringing them on par with the adjoining developed areas. The Planning Commission accordingly identified the Western Ghats region in Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Diu and Daman as one of the hilly regions which would require accelerated development during the Fifth Plan, particularly in the light of the fact that the inhabitants of these areas constitute the most disadvantaged sections of the community. The Planning Commission appointed a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and including the Chief Ministers of these four States to suggest measures for bringing about the economic well-being of the people of this region which should have overriding priority on the development strategy. The Committee also identified a number of sectors of development and has formulated schemes to be implemented in the different States for the realisation of this objective. The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 6.47 crores for the programme in Maharashtra during the Fifth Plan period. The programme formulated by my Government includes improvement of agriculture, development of horticulture, roads and communications, industries, development of tourism, minor irrigation works etc.

16. The process of transformation of secondary education to conform to the rational pattern has started apace. The syllabus for the 10-year S.S.C. Course was introduced in Std. VIII in 1972-73, in Std. IX in 1973-74 and in Std. X in 1974-75. The first batch of pupils studying in 10-year S.S.C. Course will appear at the S.S.C. Examination in March 1975. It is proposed to introduce the Higher Secondary pattern of education by opening Std. XI in June 1975. The Secondary Schools selected for conducting Science Courses in Higher Secondary Stds. XI and XII are proposed to be paid suitable grant for science equipment. Emphasis will be given to inservice

training of secondary teachers through the training centres located in colleges of education in order to improve the standard of education. Necessary legislation is being undertaken in this behalf.

So far as university education is concerned entirely new and uniform University Acts have been enacted for all the six universities in the State, during the year 1974 for better governance of universities and to bring uniformity in their working. An Institute of Science has been established at Aurangabad from August 1974. Similarly, the Institute of Science, Bombay has been given the status of an autonomous institution so that it may have more freedom in its academic, financial and administrative operations.

17. The Government of Maharashtra has undertaken legislation for the purpose of forming Greater Bombay, and certain areas round about, into a Bombay Metropolitan Region, to provide for the establishment of an authority for the purpose of planning development of the areas in that region and of executing plans, etc. for such development. The bill has since been enacted into law having received the assent of the President.

18. Government have introduced from January 1974, an Internship Programme, consisting of 6-month posting of all the interns at Primary Health Centres and the remaining 6 months at the Teaching/District Hospitals. Steps have also been taken to improve the living conditions of Resident Doctors working in the Teaching Hospitals.

19. Following an organisational study of the J. J. Hospital by a Management Expert, Government have established a Task Force. The Task Force has already taken number of steps like streamlining of the general administration and financial administration of these hospitals. A complete reorganisation of purchase, storage and distribution system of drugs and medicines, have been made. Dietic services have been improved. The other hospitals of Bombay City have also been brought under the purview of Task Force.

20. With a view to increasing the production of drugs at the Haffkine Institute and separating Research from Production and establishing a viable drug unit, Government has decided to convert the Haffkine Institute into two autonomous bodies namely (i) Haffkine

Institute for Training, Research and Testing to undertake research activities, and (ii) Haffkine Biopharmaceutical Corporation Limited to carry out production activities as a Trading Corporation.

21. The uplift of the tribals has always been a matter of great concern to us. Government is preparing a Sub-Plan for the socio-economic development of tribals in Maharashtra. This Sub-Plan will be co-extensive with the Five-Year Plan of the State. The preparation of the Sub-Plan has been entrusted to a High Power Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Finance and Planning. The Sub-Plan, which is expected to come into operation in April 1975, will cover approximately 7,000 tribal villages in 46 talukas of 12 districts of the State. Apart from achieving a substantial socio-economic development of the tribals and thus raising the tribal economy to a fairly high level of development, the major thrust of the Sub-Plan will be in the direction of eliminating the various exploitative practices to which the tribals are subject at present.

22. The State Government has decided to set up a Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal, a Corporation for the economic welfare of women. The Corporation will have an authorised capital of Rs. 1 crore with an initial Government share capital contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs. The working of this Corporation will be in the nature of a major contribution towards the economic uplift of women, its chief aim being to provide work and employment to unemployed, under-employed and destitute and homeless women.

23. In the field of cultural activities, the State Government has decided to establish a Cultural Corporation. Some of the activities in this field which are looked after by the Directorate of Cultural Affairs will be passed on to this organisation. These activities include the management of Government-owned theatres for drama, organisation of annual music, dances, drama and Film Festivals, etc. The work relating to the management of the Film City of Goregaon will also be entrusted to the Corporation.

24. As you are aware the then Union Home Minister had assured the Parliament on 19th August 1974 that the Government of India would like the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute to be settled before and not later than the next general elections to the

Lok Sabha which are due in 1976. The present Union Home Minister has stated in the Parliament on 19th December 1974 that efforts are being made in that direction. I have, therefore, every hope that a proper solution to the problem would be found soon.

25. The present Session has been mainly summoned to pass the budget estimates for the next year. In addition to the 17 bills already pending in Assembly and 2 in Council, it is proposed to take up the following bills in the course of the year :—

- (1) The Maharashtra School Education Bill.
- (2) A Bill to amend the Bombay Children Act, 1948.
- (3) A Bill regarding Maharashtra Sports Development Authority.
- (4) A Bill to provide for unification of irrigation laws in force in different parts of the State.
- (5) A Bill for amending the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948. The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands (Vidarbha Region) Act, 1958 and the Hyderabad Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1950.
- (6) A Bill for preventing alienation of Urban property.
- (7) A Bill to amend the Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Lowering of Ceiling on Holdings) (Amendment) Bill.
- (8) The Maharashtra (Irrigation, Power and other than Irrigation and Power Projects) Resettlement of Project-Affected Persons Bill, 1974.
- (9) The Bombay Public Trusts (Amendment) Bill.
- (10) A Bill to provide for increasing the pecuniary Jurisdiction of all Civil Courts.
- (11) A Bill to amend Bombay Anatomy Act, 1949.
- (12) A Bill to amend the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act, 1888 and Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporation Act, 1949.
- (13) A Bill to amend the Bombay Metropolitan Region Development Authority Act, 1974.
- (14) A Bill to provide for uniformity in the Provisions of the Local Authorities Loans Act, 1974.
- (15) Amendment to the Bombay Rent Act, 1947.

- (16) A Bill to amend the Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act, 1971 (Conversion of the Raw Cotton Ordinance, 1974 into an Act).
- (17) A Consolidated Bill to amend the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960.
- (18) A Bill to provide for taking over the Electricity Undertakings.

26. Honourable members, I have tried to give you the salient features of the principal programmes and policies being followed in this State. The Maharashtra Legislature has consistently and steadfastly maintained a high tradition of parliamentary norms and behaviours. The Government and the Opposition parties, in a spirit of co-operation, have striven to work together for the common objectives of serving the State, its people and the country as a whole. There is a heavy agenda before you principally the consideration and passing of the State Budget among other things. I am leaving you to your deliberations in the earnest hope that they will prove fruitful and successful in the best interests of the State.

• • •