



ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

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GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA

WINT SESSION OF THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE AT BOMBAY

14th March 1988

MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. SPEAKER AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to this first Session of the State Legislature in 1988. After assumption of office of the Governor of Maharashtra, this is my first opportunity to address you. While extending my warm greetings to the people of Maharashtra, I would like to assure you that it shall be my constant endeavour to serve them, with your full co-operation.

2. This year, in many parts of the State, the rain fall was satisfactory. However, due to erratic and inadequate rains, 6,400 villages spread over 13 Districts, especially in Nagpur Division, have been adversely affected during kharif 1987. Various relief measures are being undertaken for rendering assistance to the affected population. The Government of India has sanctioned ceiling of assistance of Rs. 104.19 crores upto June 1988. Minikits of agricultural inputs were given free to 19.93 lakh farmers to take advantage of the good rains in September-October 1987. About 1.40 lakh students in the scarcity affected areas were reimbursed examination fees during the current year totalling about Rs. 90 lakhs from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

3. The successive droughts which have hit the State for four years have adversely affected its economy but despite this the

Government has not allowed the tempo of development to be slowed down. The Annual Plan for the year 1988-89 has been finalised at Rs. 2,430 crores. Of this, an outlay of Rs. 400 crores has been provided for removal of regional backlog as against the provision of Rs. 300 crores made for the current year.

4. Our State lays great emphasis on implementation of the 20-Point Programme. I am happy to inform you that in the year 1986-87, the State was ranked first in the country. My Government has made all-out efforts during the current year and hopes to maintain this prime position.

5. My Government has undertaken a mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Five Year Plan during the current year. For the first time a Document on the mid-term plan review will be presented to the Legislature. The discussions on the mid-term review will give you all an opportunity to assess the State's performance so far, and to make suitable suggestions for the remaining period of the Seventh Plan.

6. My Government is committed to provide adequate drinking water to rural areas in the State. As a part of its efforts, 10,911 villages have been covered till the end of January 1988 as against the target of 20,000 villages for the Seventh Five Year Plan period. It is proposed to cover 5,000 villages during the next year. National Technology Mission on drinking water has been set up to deal with problems of guineaworms, fluorosis, brackishness and excess iron. Programmes are being undertaken under this Mission in Satara and Latur Districts.

7. There are 79 continuing urban water supply schemes, out of which 10 schemes will be completed by March 1988 and 28 by March 1989. The consortium of Life Insurance Corporation, General Insurance Corporation and Unit Trust of India has agreed to provide an additional loan of Rs. 100 crores for these schemes during the next five years. The World Bank aided Maharashtra Water Supply Sewerage Project costing Rs. 162 crores and covering water supply for Thane and Kalyan Corporation area and neighbouring Municipal Corporations and villages, is nearing completion.

8. From the inception of the Employment Guarantee Scheme till March 1987, nearly 200 crore mandays of employment have been generated against an expenditure of about Rs. 1,650 crores. During the current year, 17.15 crore mandays of employment are expected to be generated at a cost of about Rs. 265 crores. My Government has decided to take up the programme of digging wells in the lands of the small and marginal farmers under the Employment Guarantee Scheme. Employment opportunities are supplemented by the Centrally sponsored Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and National Rural Employment Programme.

9. The National Bio-gas Development Programme formulated to tap alternative sources of energy is being implemented vigorously in the State. So far, more than 2 lakh Bio-gas plants have been set up. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble members that our State has bagged the first prize in the country for the best performance under the programme for the third successive year. My Government has every hope of retaining this position in this year.

10. I am happy to state that the Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation, the Maharashtra Agro-industries Development corporation, the Maharashtra State Co-operative Oil Seeds Growers Federation and the Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Dudh Mahasangh received the National Productivity Awards at the hands of the President of India.

11. On account of the improved agronomic practices followed by the farmers on the recommendations of the Government, backed up by supplies of improved hybrid jowar seeds, the State has been able to record highest ever production of over 37 lakh tonnes of kharif jowar during 1987-88.

12. The Government decision to adopt eight monthly Irrigation pattern on new Irrigation projects in the water scarcity areas has now been extended to all projects under construction in such areas. Adoption of this Irrigation pattern to Mula Project is expected to bring about 19,109 hectares under Mula Right Bank Canal. Similarly, it has been decided to adopt eight monthly cropping pattern on

Bhima(Ujani) Project with expected increase in irrigation of about 50,000 hectares in Solapur District.

13. Government had introduced last year a pilot scheme for grant of subsidy to farmers for installation of sprinklers/drip irrigation systems. The scheme is now being continued for the remaining period of the Seventh Five Year Plan. Under the scheme, small and marginal farmers, farmers having lands between two and six hectares and farmers having land holding in excess of six hectares will be assisted by way of subsidy upto the ceiling of Rs. 20,000, Rs. 14,000 and Rs. 8,000 respectively.

14. A surplus of about Rs. 100 crores was generated by the Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme in the cotton season of 1986-87 and an amount of Rs. 75 crores was distributed as bonus to the cotton growers. My Government has paid Rs. 200 per quintal as advance bonus to the cotton growers for the current season.

15. Eight sugar factories in the backward areas of Vidarbha and Marathwada have gone into production upto 1987-88 within the stipulated period of 39 months, thus qualifying for the Sampat Committee incentives. This is a result of the liberalised policy of my Government in giving enhanced share capital assistance totalling Rs. 37 crores. Out of 68 applications for financial assistance from the Sugarcane Development Fund recommended by the State Government, the Government of India has so far sanctioned 43 applications involving an amount of Rs. 38 crores.

16. Due to drought conditions in the previous year, a number of sugar factories were facing difficulties on account of short margin in their operations. My Government took an important decision of giving default guarantee to loans amounting to Rs. 37 crores advanced by the State Co-operative Bank. This has enabled 32 sugar factories to take full advantage of the current crushing season.

17. My Government is conscious of the financial difficulties faced by the handloom and powerloom industry in the State which are mainly due to the high price of yarn and general recession in the textile industry. The Government of India was requested to

increase the subsidy on Janata cloth produced in the handloom sector from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per sq. metre. In this connection, I welcome the announcement in the Budget speech of the Union Finance Minister enhancing the subsidy to Rs. 2.75 per sq. metre. As a result of my Government's persistent efforts, the Government of India, through NABARD, has liberalised flow of credit to the powerloom sector. My Government has also initiated a number of steps to help the powerloom sector in regard to supply of yarn, electric connections, registration of powerlooms and assistance to the Powerloom Corporation.

18. My Government has financed a co-operative spinning mill in Wardha with the World Bank assistance and this mill has gone into production this year. As regards the co-operative spinning mills under erection, my Government has sanctioned additional financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 6.35 crores towards share capital of these mills. Besides, financial assistance of Rs. 6.95 crores from the Capital Formation Fund created under the Cotton Monopoly Scheme has also been made available to them.

19. It is proposed to set up one Brackish Water Fish Farmers Development Agency in Thane District and three new Fresh Water Fish Farmers Development Agencies in Pune, Satara and Sangli Districts.

20. During the current year, 7 poultry projects have been sanctioned with the assistance of the National Co-operative Development Corporation involving an amount of Rs. 280 lakhs. Another 15 projects costing Rs. 600 lakhs have been recommended to that Corporation.

21. During the current year, 512 villages have been electrified as on 29th February 1988 and 1,05,492 agricultural pumps have been energised already. Power connections were given on top priority to drinking water supply schemes in scarcity and drought prone areas of the State. 77 per cent. of Adivasi villages were electrified as on 31st January 1988 and 46,567 agricultural pumps of Adivasis were energised. As on 31st January 1988, 5,12,404 persons from the weaker sections were given domestic connections free of

service connection charges. Of these persons, 3,18,029 are Nav-Buddhas or belong to the Scheduled Castes.

22. Solar energy is an important source of non-conventional energy and 225 villages have been provided street lights through this source. At Deogad in Sindhudurg District, the first wind farm was commissioned. This has generated over 8.5 lakh units of energy and its capacity is proposed to be doubled. For assessing the availability of wind power, a new project has been taken up at Dahanu in Thane District during 1987-88.

23. Our State has not only been able to meet the entire energy requirements of the State without any power cut but has also generated a surplus from out of which this State has supplied power to Karnataka, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Plant Load Factor has increased to 56.74 this year as against 50.08 during the last year. My Government is conscious that there is yet scope for improvement.

24. In pursuance of the policy of the State Government to encourage Electronic industry in Maharashtra, a special incentive scheme for electronics has been announced. MELTRON, the Electronic Development Corporation of Maharashtra has turned the corner financially and wiped out the accumulated losses. It has commissioned its factory at Aurangabad which will manufacture Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange (EPABX) system based on indigenously developed C-DOT technology. In order to provide the necessary support to small scale industries in the State, a tool room and training Centre will be set up at Aurangabad at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.64 crores, with financial assistance from the Central Government and the Federal Republic of Germany.

25. My Government has decided to expand the activity of sericulture which has the potential to provide employment on a large scale. It is expected that Maharashtra will be one of the States to be included in the World Bank Project taken up by the Central Silk Board for non-traditional areas.

26. Industrial relations in the State have registered further improvement over the previous years. 65,000 workers were involved in work stoppages due to strikes and lock-outs during the year 1987, as against 83,000 in 1986, out of a total work force of about 11.30 lakhs.

27. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Vikhe Patil, Member of Parliament, appointed to examine the question of the revision of minimum wages for agricultural labourers, numbering about 65 lakhs in the State, has recently submitted its report.

28. In order to improve the standard of primary education in the State, it has been decided to implement the Centrally sponsored scheme of Operation Blackboard under which a second teacher will be appointed in single teacher schools. A suitable building will be constructed and necessary equipment will be provided for each primary school. The programme will be implemented in a phased manner starting with schools in 52 Blocks especially in the educationally backward Districts during the first year.

29. This year Government has launched a campaign called "Educational Upsurge" (*Shaikshanik Uthav*) seeking local co-operation to improve the physical facilities to all schools. Voluntary contributions of more than Rs. 5 crores have been received during this campaign.

30. An impetus has been given to the Literacy programme by my Government by sanctioning 5,600 centres this year.

31. I am happy to inform you that the implementation of the policy of my Government on Housing, with a thrust on growth of Housing Stock for the Urban Poor, has commenced during the year 1987, being the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. You may recall that Government had restructured its earlier policy and prescribed that at least 65 per cent. of the surplus land under the Urban Land Ceiling Law, which is privately owned, should be used for the dwelling units affordable to the Lower Income Groups and the Economically Weaker Sections. About 80 per cent. of the units on the 65 per cent. land will be sold at a price less than

Rs. 25,000 per unit. About 5,000 applications have been received in accordance with this new policy. 590 schemes have been sanctioned so far. Government will expeditiously clear the remaining applications and it is estimated that about 71 lakh dwelling units are likely to come up on the available surplus land in the course of the next five to six years. The Programme of providing civic amenities in slums and upgrading the environment in slums through the plan funds, Prime Minister's Grant and World Bank assisted Projects will be further strengthened extending benefit to 5 lakh persons in the coming year.

32. A new scheme called 'Maher' for providing boarding and lodging and also legal, medical and vocational assistance to women affected by the evils of the dowry system has been started in the six Divisional headquarters of the State.

33. The Safai Kamgars Committee report has been accepted by Government involving earmarking of funds for housing, education and vocational training of Safai Kamgars. It has been decided to set up a training and rehabilitation centre for Scavengers and Safai Kamgars.

34. For the first time in the State, a census of the physically handicapped was organised in Akkalkot in Solapur District. This was a pilot project which will be replicated now all over the State.

35. It has been decided to create a Backward Class Development Authority for co-ordinating the developmental schemes operated by the three Backward Class Development Corporations. The identity of these three Corporations will be maintained under this Authority.

36. The Maharashtra State Co-operative Tribal Development Corporation recorded substantial progress since 1986-87. There is an overall improvement in the management of Ashram Schools. The percentage of success of tribal students in the Ashram Schools at the Secondary School Certificate Examination increased from

33 per cent. in 1985-86 to 41 per cent. in 1986-87. This compares favourably with the percentage of the State as a whole.

37. Maharashtra State has embarked upon a massive afforestation programme in the degraded forests and in the waste lands located mainly in drought prone areas. The target of 2.44 lakh hectares is envisaged as against the achievement of 1.13 lakh hectares during 1987. Tree plantation is also being encouraged through the *Kisan Nurseries*.

38. Universal Immunization Programme is being implemented in 11 Districts in the State and all Districts will be fully brought under the programme by 1990. Government has decided to ban Sex Determination Tests and proposes to promote legislation in this behalf. Government has recently taken up Cancer Control Programme and the Paps-smear test facility has been provided in all the District hospitals and women's hospitals as well as in selected post-partum centres. As a part of the Cancer Control Programme, Government has launched a public campaign against smoking and imposed a ban on smoking in all offices, establishments, institutions of Government, Semi-Government, Local Bodies and Government Undertakings. A Paediatrics Department has been started at the Sasoon General Hospital at Pune. A cine-angiography machine has been installed at the J. J. Group of Hospitals at Bombay and an ultrasonic machine at Cama and Albless Hospital at Bombay.

39. During the next year, it is proposed to establish a second Cobalt Unit at the Medical College Hospitals at Aurangabad and Ambejogai. It has been decided to start a new Medical College at Nanded from the next academic year. The work of construction of the building of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences at Nagpur has commenced.

40. Government has decided to grant with effect from 1st May 1985 pension and other financial assistance, on the same lines as the freedom fighters, to the families of those persons who had laid down their lives (*Hutatmas*) for the creation of Maharashtra State. Government has also decided to grant with effect from 1st May

1985 pension and other financial assistance to those who had participated in Arya Samaj movement and suffered imprisonment of one month or more. Government has further decided to give travelling grant of Rs. 500 per annum to widows/widowers of freedom fighters from 1986-87.

41. Government has decided to instal 1,500 community television sets in the year 1988-89.

42. My Chief Minister met the Union Home Minister to stress the need for an early solution to the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute. In continuation of the action already taken unilaterally by my Government earlier of making Marathi teaching non-compulsory in the Kannada schools in border areas, and for reserving twenty seats in Engineering Colleges, steps were also taken last year for further reserving five seats in Medical Colleges of Maharashtra for Marathi-speaking people from the border areas. My Government has been requesting the Government of Karnataka to take reciprocal action and particularly making teaching of Kannada non-compulsory in the Marathi schools in the border areas. However, no steps have yet been taken by the Government of Karnataka in this regard, inspite of the agreement.

43. Honourable members, during the present Session, you have to consider supplementary demands, budget, vote on account, bills to convert certain Ordinances into Acts, pending and new bills of urgent nature and other Government as well as non-official urgent business, which may be brought before you for consideration.

I wish your deliberations during the present Session every success.

Jai Hind.