

Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the 13th Assembly. Through you I convey my greetings and best wishes to the people of Orissa.

2. The peaceful conclusion of the Elections to the State Assembly once again demonstrates political maturity and constructive resilience of the people of Orissa. The decisive mandate given to my Government in the election is an emphatic affirmation of the Common Programme on the basis of which the election was contested by the B.J.D.-B.J.P. alliance. The Common Programme of my Government constitutes the core of the policies of my Government and it shall be the earnest endeavour of my Government to attain the goals set out and implement the programmes outlined therein.

3. The House has already expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of Basanta Kumar Biswal, Ex-Deputy Chief Minister, Anup Singh Deo, Ananta Narayan Singh Deo, Ex-Ministers, Chhotray Majhi, Rabi Singh Majhi, Raghunath Hembram, Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi, Ex-Ministers of State, Baishnaba Pradhan, Tarini Sardar, Krushna Chandra Panda, Loknath Choudhury, Darapu Lachana Naidu, Antaryami Sahoo, Junas Bilung, Achyutananda Mohanty, Ranga Ballav Amat, Ramesh Chandra Panda, Jami Subarao Prusty and Iswar Naik, former Members of the House. I would request you to join me in paying homage to Pitamber Panda, Antaryami Pradhan and Jagannath Mishra, Ex-Members, who are no more with us. The House conveys our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families, this House will always remember their selfless service.

It is also in the fitness of things that we remember the supreme sacrifice made by the brave JAWANS OF THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES, particularly those belonging to our State namely, Biswajit Mishra, Ashok Kumar Das, A.R. Sahoo, Shaikh Jafirulla, M. Behera, Jai Singh, B.N. Baral, C.B. Biswal, Babru Bahan Pradhan, S.K. Sahoo, Kishore Chandra Malik and U.C. Panigrahi. We salute them for their exemplary and selfless service for the security of our nation.

4. The State economy was seriously crippled by the tragic and unprecedented Super Cyclone of 1999. To our misfortune, the cycle of natural calamities has rolled on relentlessly. Drought of 2000 was followed by Floods of 2001, Drought of 2002 and Floods of 2003.

In the aftermath of super cyclone, my Government took up a massive programme to restore and upgrade the social and economic infrastructure of the cyclone affected areas. Simultaneously, a comprehensive programme has been undertaken to strengthen the institutional capacity of both the Government as well as the community based organizations for effective disaster management. Among other things, during the last four years 5674 primary schools and 1066 high schools have been constructed in the cyclone affected districts. 70 multi-purpose cyclone shelters have been established in the coastal zone which is most vulnerable to tidal inundation. Orissa Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) has been created to assist the civil administration in rescue and relief operations in times of natural calamities. Droughts which occurred in the years 2000 and 2002 as well as floods which occurred in the years 2001 and 2003 were also managed by my State Government effectively and efficiently by ensuring timely relief and rehabilitation measures.

5. The State is experiencing severe fiscal stress on account of the mis-match between revenue receipt and revenue expenditure resulting in substantial revenue deficit. The imbalance restricts the availability of resources for development activities. When resources are scarce and our developmental needs are many we have to make the best use of our limited resources and prioritise our developmental needs. In order to fully fund priority projects the State Government has introduced the concept of Zero Based Investment where the

objective is speedy completion of projects through full funding in order to avoid cost and time overrun. As a result of this, more projects are getting completed. Emphasis is being given to complete as many projects as possible.

The State Government has given utmost importance to fiscal restructuring and has taken a number of measures to ensure that funds are made available for developmental activities and anti-poverty programmes. The State Government is also contemplating to introduce a Fiscal Responsibility Bill as has been done by several State Governments and the Government of India. I am happy to inform this august House that through various revenue generation measures undertaken by State Government the tax GSDP ratio has risen from 4.4% in 1997-98 to 6.53% in 2002-03. During the last financial year also, the State Government has been able to exceed the collection of State's own Tax and Non-Tax revenue by more than Rs.260 crore from the budget estimate. Revenue deficit has also been reduced from RS.2574.19 crore in 1999-2000 to RS.1575.91 crore in 2002-03. This represents reduction of revenue deficit as a percentage of GSDP from 7% to 3.5% of GSDP.

One of the major stumbling blocks to fiscal restructuring is the huge debt burden. The debt burden of Orissa as on 31.3.03 constitutes 63% of GSDP and 329% of total revenue of the State. The main thrust in our Memorandum submitted to the Twelfth Finance Commission is, thus, to provide debt relief.

6. My Government has already finalised the 10th Five Year Plan with an over all Plan outlay of Rs.19,000 crore which is 26.7% higher than the outlay for the Ninth Five Year Plan. In spite of the constraints caused by recurrent natural calamities and the state of public finances, my Government has accepted the advice of the Planning Commission to achieve a growth rate of 6.2% per annum in the economy during Tenth Five Year Plan period. In the allocation of resources, social and infrastructural sectors have been given priority. While the social sector has been allocated with 26.82% of the total plan outlay, the Irrigation sector as well as Energy sectors account for 21.63% and 15.08% respectively.

My Government has formulated the annual plan for 2004-05 and plan size has been fixed at RS.3250 crore, out of which Rs.2963.56 crore relates to Government Sector and the balance RS.286.44 crore relates to Public Sector Undertakings. My Government attaches the highest priority to the reduction of poverty. A Poverty Task Force (PTF) has been constituted. The PTF is engaged in developing a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy with an aim to reduce poverty by 9% during 10th plan, 15% during 11 th plan and more than 15% by 12th plan.

My Government in consultation with the Government of India has formulated a Revised Long Term Action Plan (RL TAP) being implemented in 8 most socio-economically and tribal-dominated backward KBK districts namely Koraput, Nawarangpur, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Bolangir, Sonepur, Kalahandi and Nuapara. The RL TAP has envisaged an outlay of Rs.5527.41 crore from different sources like Central Plan, Centrally Sponsored Plan and Additional Central Assistance from Government of India. During the year 2000-01 to 2003-04, Rs.590.35 crore have been received from the Government of India towards ACNSCA out of which RS.569.03 crore have been spent in the implementation of projects and programme under RL TAP.

External Aid is an important source of mobilization of resources for developmental activities in the State. Thirteen Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) were being implemented in the State during 2003-04 in several sectors including Irrigation, Health, Energy, Agriculture etc. The State Government intends to implement EAPs on development of roads, irrigation, 'poverty reduction, urban development, health, water supply, education, forest and environment and capacity building.

My Government is committed to promote self employment. It seeks to build on the success of Self-Help-Groups (SHGs) to accelerate generation of Self-employment. A special package of assistance has been initiated recently to promote Self-employment opportunities for educated unemployed youth. This programme will be further strengthened. In the next five years, self-employment opportunities for 18 lakh educated unemployed youth will be created.

Keeping in view the long standing aspirations of the people of Western Orissa, my Government constituted the Western Orissa Development Council (WODC). The Government allocates Rs.50 crore every year to WODC as grant-in-aid. Under the Rastriya Sam Vikash Yojana (RSVY), an initiative launched by the Planning Commission during the Tenth Plan, my Government has made efforts to get three districts - Ganjam, Mayurbhanj and Gajapati - included under this programme. It has also proposed to include Kandhamal, Sundergarh and Keonjhar districts.

My Government is committed to ensure balanced and equitable development of the different regions of the State. In order to achieve this objective, a Commission has been constituted to look into all aspects of regional imbalances in the development of the State and suggest suitable measures to address the existing regional disparities as well as to halt this trend in the development process.

7. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of our State. Over 70% of the population of the State are dependant on agriculture for their livelihood. Therefore, my Government accords high priority to developing the agriculture sector. My Government is convinced that there is a need for a paradigm shift from traditional agriculture to commercial cultivation of more remunerative crops like Pulses, Oilseeds, Cotton, Sugarcane and above all vegetables. Special efforts through extension and strategic interventions will be made to achieve such a shift. Horticulture has been identified as a major area of crop diversification for enabling the farmers to earn higher incomes from their holdings. My Government has programmed to make a quantum jump in the supply of quality planting material. Three Integrated Horticulture Development Projects have been launched in Keonjhar, Gajapati and Koraput districts. My Government has also commissioned a techno-economic feasibility report for an integrated horticulture project for the entire KBK area to be implemented with assistance from the Government of India. Floriculture is being encouraged in the State, particularly in areas around big cities where demand for flowers has been increasing. During 2004-05, it is programmed to hold 6300 demonstrations and to supply 84.68 lakh saplings of Jasmine, Marigold, Rose, Crossandra, Gladioli etc. and 1400 qtls. of Tuberose under the Work Plan for Macro Management of Agriculture. Coffee plantations have been introduced in Koraput and Rayagada districts on Government lands on a participatory mode for ultimate settlement with the beneficiary tribal farmers. While 2000 hectares were taken up during 2003-04, the programme will be scaled upto 4000 hectares during 2004-05.

Farm mechanisation is becoming increasingly popular in the State. Agro Service Centres set up through private entrepreneurs are rendering useful services through custom leasing of farm equipment to local farmers. It has been programmed to set up 290 Agro Service Centres in the State under Revised Long-Term Action Plan (RL TAP) for KBK during 2004-05. Subsidy is being provided to individual farmers on purchase of agricultural implements like Powertillers, Tractors, Harvestors etc.

Development of the Micro Watersheds in drought prone areas of the State for drought proofing and improving the moisture regime has been accorded high priority. 1,712 Watersheds with a total treatable area of 9.52 lakh hectares are being developed currently - 4.32 lakh hectares under Drought Prone Area Programme, 2.781akh hectares under Integrated Watershed. Development Programme; 1.16 lakh hectares under Revised Long Term Action Plan for KBK; and 0.75 lakh hectares under DFID assisted Western Orissa Livelihood

Programme. There is a programme to treat 1.77 lakh hectares during 2004-05 under all these schemes with active involvement of the beneficiary agricultural families.

Orissa has emerged as a paddy surplus state for last two years. In order to ensure minimum support price to the farmers for their surplus paddy, my Government had decided to procure 15 lakh MT of rice during the current marketing season 2003-04 out of which 14 lakh MT will be procured through levy route and 1 lakh MT through decentralised procurement through Government agencies i.e. Orissa State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited and Primary Agriculture Co-operative Society in the ratio of 60:40. In spite of financial constraints and lack of infrastructural facilities and technical personnel, my Government has decided to go for a limited market intervention by opening paddy purchase centres in different districts. Problem of distress sale has been effectively checked by such measures of the Government. Keeping in view the National Food Policy and considering the entire country as single food zone, my Government has removed all restrictions on movement of food-grains within and outside the State.

8. Since 70% of population of the State depends upon Agriculture, increase in irrigation potential is one of the prime concerns of my Government. There has been consistent endeavour of the Government to complete the ongoing Major, Medium and Minor Irrigation Projects with financial assistance from the World Bank and other International Agencies. 37 Major and Medium and 138 Minor irrigation Projects have been taken up with the assistance of NABARD. 14 Major and Medium' Irrigation Projects have been taken up under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). 15,642 Lift Irrigation Points have been installed and energized in the State with designed ayacut to irrigate 3.47 lakh hectares for Kharif and 2.08 lakh hectares for Rabi cultivation. It has been the endeavour of my Government to increase the area under irrigation substantially through installation of Shallow and Medium Tube Wells and Bore Wells. The Government has launched a programme to subsidise installation of 36,000 Shallow and Medium Tube Wells in farmers' field in 7 districts having potential by availing assistance from the NABARD. 10,600 Pani Panchayats have been formed all over the State to promote farmers' participation in the system of water management covering an area of 8.79 lakh hectares. My Government has decided to extend it to the entire irrigated area of the State under various Major, Medium, Minor and Lift Irrigation projects. To provide irrigation facilities in the drought affected KBK districts, my Government has programmed to execute 8 Major and Medium Irrigation Projects and 22 Minor Irrigation Projects under L TAP with the assistance from Government of India. Under Biju Krushak Vikash Yojana, Rs.47.96 crores have been released for 785 Lift Irrigation Projects in the KBK area and RS.14.12 crore in non-KBK area for 257 LIPs. Under this yojana, 337 LIPs have been completed with irrigation facilities for 7500 hectares.

A drainage master plan amounting to Rs.570 crore has been prepared to improve drainage congestion in coastal areas.

9. Considering enormous potential of income generation in milk production and marketing, my Government has included 16 districts of the State under "Operation Flood" programme and the remaining 14 districts have been covered under "Integrated Dairy Development Programme". The State Government has taken steps to implement "Women's Dairy Projects" in 17 districts through OMFED under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP). 650 women dairy co-operative societies comprising 55,205 women members have been organised in the State. My Government has proposed to the Government of India to include 4 KBK districts under STEP. Dairy Farms through unemployed youth under PMRY and other schemes and large Dairy Farms through Bank finance and subsidy from APICOL have also been given due importance. The State Government has also taken steps for increasing inland fish production in the State. My Government has announced State Reservoir Fishery Policy to boost

inland fish production. Exports of marine products from the State amounted to Rs.334 crore during 2003-04. My Government is promoting eco-friendly "brackish water pisciculture" and "fresh water prawn culture".-It will soon finalise a Comprehensive Fishery Policy. It is also proposed to launch a Fishery Development Mission with external assistance.

10. The Co-operatives in the State continue to play a vital role, particularly in providing credit support to agriculture and allied activities in rural areas. Agricultural crop loan both in cash and kind are being disbursed instantly through Kissan Credit Cards (KCC) to farmers. Kalinga Kissan Gold Cards (KKGC) and Kalinga Kissan Silver Cards (KKSC) are issued to the Kissan Credit Card holders who are regularly paying loans for at least two years and one year respectively. Co-operative Banks account for 70% share of the total crop loans advanced to farmers. During last four years RS.1480.34 crore as Khariff loans and Rs.852.34 crore as Rabi loans were disbursed to 19.49 lakh farmers and 10.38 lakh farmers respectively. The Co-operative structure disbursed RS.355.47 crore to 12.60 lakh farmers as assistance under crop insurance during last four years. Under RL TAP for KBK districts, ongoing schemes, namely, construction of Warehouse godowns and Infrastructure Development of Agri-Business will be continued with greater vigour. The main thrust of my Government in Co-operative Sector would be to promote self-employment opportunities through loan financing; strengthen agriculture and its allied activities to ensure better production and supply of essential commodities in rural and urban areas. Direct sale and purchase of agricultural products through Krushak Bazars will facilitate marketing of farm produce.

11. Forests play a major role in providing livelihood support to a large vulnerable section of our people. My Government will continue to focus its efforts to protect and increase forest wealth of the State through people's participation as well as to provide livelihood support to forest-fringe dwellers. Due to the emphasis laid on the constitution of Vana Samrakshyana Samities (VSSs) to involve people in the protection and management of forests, more than 7000 VSSs have been formed in the State bringing 6,68,594 hectares of forests under their protection. A welfare scheme has been launched to provide financial assistance to Kendu leaf workers in the event of sickness and death. The next of kin of a worker will be entitled to a compassionate grant amounting to RS.10,000 in case of death and RS.15,000 in case of illness. My Government has re-organised field administration of the Forest Department for effective functioning and better performance. Due emphasis is being given to promote medicinal plants sector in the State. My Government accords high priority to the conservation and sustainable management of forests and wildlife; afforestation and regeneration of degraded forest lands; control and abatement of pollution; administration of environmental laws; and promotion of environmental awareness among our people. In recognition of the outstanding contribution to the eco-restoration of Chilika lake by Chilika Development Authority (CDA), the CDA has been awarded the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award, 2002.

12. Based on our experience gathered in implementing power sector reforms for the first time in the country, my Government will consolidate the efforts already made. Steps will be taken so that this vital sector will be fully able to stand by itself while achieving the objectives of greater efficiency and higher public satisfaction. On coming into force of Availability Based Tariff w.e.f. 01.04.2003, Orissa has now become the biggest exporter of surplus power and is selling power to other States such as Karnataka, Gujarat, Chhatisgarh, New Delhi, Haryana and to NT PC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited. Orissa Power Generation Corporation is now operating at very high Plant Load Factor and has paid dividend of Rs. 75 crore during 2002-03 and interim dividend of RS.31.25 crore in 2003-04 to the State Government. As availability of 'Bijli' is essential for development, my Government is committed to take all possible measures to electrify all the revenue villages by 2007.

13. Orissa is endowed with vast mineral deposits. My Government provides all support for establishment of mineral based industries in private sector. In order to utilise iron ore and coal resources of the State, my Government has signed MoUs with eight companies. Many more projects are likely to be set up in Orissa for rapid industrialisation in the State. Coal resources of the State have attracted many industrial houses to set up thermal power projects.

The receipts from mining royalty have increased from Rs.443.54 crore in 2002-03 to RS.537.51 crore in 2003-04. My Government expects steady increase in such revenues. The Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd. has emerged as a profit making organisation and aims at an ambitious RS.500 crore turn-over during the current financial year.

14. My Government will promote an investor friendly industrial climate in the State. During the last 4 years, 41 large and medium projects have been set up in the State with a capital investment of RS.1951 crore providing direct employment to about 6,000 persons and indirect employment to many more in the mining, service and transport sectors. The State Government has received 35 investment proposals with an investment potential of Rs.45,000 crore. Out of these, MoUs with 6 promoters have been signed. Efforts will be made to translate as many intentions into actual investments as possible. In order to revitalize the SSI sector in KBK districts, a Special Industrial Assistance Scheme has been initiated. My Government is encouraging private initiatives to establish ancillary industries for meeting the requirement of the heavy industries. Under PMRY Scheme, 23,335 unemployed youth have been given assistance for their self-employment. New initiatives are being taken to energise handicraft clusters and generate income and employment. Khadi and Village Industries will get further attention under Gramodyog Rozgar Yojana. In order to improve availability of human resources for industry, a Technical University 'Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT)' has been established and intake capacity of Engineering Colleges has been enhanced to 10000 from 6000 in recent years by establishment of new colleges. Regional Engineering College, Rourkela has been upgraded to a 'National Institute of Technology (NIT)' having deemed University status.

15. Revitalizing the handloom sector through improvement in technology, design, marketing and management will be accorded priority. To give marketing support to the hand loom weavers in the State, 'Boyanika' is being restructured and strengthened under Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana with an outlay of Rs.30 crore. 'Sambalpuri Bastralaya,' the biggest primary Weavers' Co-operative Society is being revived with financial assistance by the Western Orissa Development Council. Emphasis is also being laid on the promotion of sericulture in order to bridge the gap between demand for silk yarn and its supply in the State.

16. My Government has made significant achievements in the area of Information Technology. The website of the Government of Orissa launched on 15th August, 2002 is constantly evolving to bring information to the people at large. There is a steady increase in e-governance applications through internet. The Secretariat Local Area Network (LAN) has been made operational. Under the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) grant, a programme to impart computer training in 400 High Schools is under implementation. My Government have sought grants under 12th Finance Commission for a larger programme of this kind. In order to promote self-employment in I. T. sector, my Government will help set up 1000 Information Kiosks in urban and semi-urban areas and support enterprises in Business Process Outsourcing. My Government will seek to attract IT entrepreneurs of the country and from abroad to Bhubaneswar by highlighting available strengths and opportunities of the state like land, quality office space, IT manpower, electricity, communication and so on.

17. My Government has taken up Gramsat Pilot Project through Orissa Remote Sensing Application Centre (ORSAC) with the assistance of Government of India, enabling a communication network link between the State Headquarters, District Headquarters, Block Headquarters and 800 Gram Panchayats in 8 KBK districts

through interactive networking. The link will be used for conducting interactive training programmes to give training to field functionaries of different branches of Government and for review of the ongoing development schemes. More than 180 interactive training programmes have been conducted under the scheme.

My Government is also encouraging biotechnology research and applications. A vision document - 'Biotechnology Vision of the State of Orissa' for the Tenth Five Year Plan has been prepared and released in June, 2003. My Government plans to unveil a Biotechnology Policy for the State with an objective to setting up of Biotechnology Park as well as other Centres of Excellence in this area.

18. My Government has pursued a policy of selective privatization/disinvestment of loss making public and co-operative enterprises operating in 'non-core' sectors. The primary objective of my Government's privatization policy has been to revive potentially viable loss making enterprises. As a part of this strategic policy choice, my Government has consciously opted for a model of privatization to secure the interest of the workers and to create opportunities for further job creation by catalyzing the dynamism of the private enterprises. It will continue to pursue this policy during the next five years.

My Government has also identified a set of core enterprises which will continue to operate in the domain of the public sector. Its endeavour will be to institute a system of good corporate governance coupled with optimum managerial autonomy in these core enterprises so that they achieve better performance standards with enhanced transparency and accountability. A grant of 30 million pounds has been committed by DFID, UK to assist the State Government in carrying out this comprehensive Public Enterprise Reform Programme.

19. My Government is committed to improve physical connectivity in the State. Good road infrastructure - in short, "Sadak" -. is one of the basic needs of the people and an essential pre-condition for development. During last 4 years, 52 bridges have been completed and 800 km. of State roads have been improved under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Central Road Fund (CRF), Revised Long-Term Action Plan (RL TAP) and other State Plan Schemes. Three major bridges at Sonapur, Sidhamula and Boudh over Mahanadi have ushered in dynamism in the local economy. During the last 5 years, 1600 km. of National Highways have been added - significantly the same length as was added during the previous 50 years. 444 km. of Golden Quadrilateral NH has been widened to 4 lanes; and plan is on the anvil to convert Cuttack-Paradip NH to a 4-lane Highway. In 2003-04, 4 State Highways - Khurda-Bolangir, Puri-Satapada, Puri-Konark and Jharkhanda Border-Parsora - with a total length of 382 km. have been declared as new National Highways. My Government will continue its efforts for the cause of improving connectivity.

In the next five years, my Government will target completing 93 ongoing bridges under various schemes; improvement of 1000 km. of road length of State Roads; and 7 road projects connecting important tourist destinations under Additional Central Assistance funding of the Government of India. My Government will pursue the proposal submitted to the Government of India for improvement of 30 State Highways with 2350 km. of road length and 9 road projects for improvement of 850 km. under external assistance.

20. My Government not only accords high priority to major roads, but attaches equal importance to rural connectivity to boost rural economy and improve the quality of life in rural areas. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 2055 km. of all-weather roads have already been constructed to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations. 1703 km. of roads are being constructed to provide connectivity to another 1030 habitations. Further, my Government has programmed to complete 2480 km. of road to connect 1442 habitations during 2004-05. With NABARD assistance, 107 bridges have been completed on rural roads, another 103 bridges have been taken up and 50 bridges have been targeted for completion during 2004-05. In order to address the problem of connectivity in KBK districts, a Special Connectivity Programme has been

conceived with a total outlay of RS.3311 crore in three phases. The phase-I programme envisages an outlay of Rs.828 crore to provide all-weather connectivity to 607 villages and 347 GP headquarters and the work has already commenced.

My Government attaches very high priority to "Pani" - the provision of safe drinking water to the people. My Government has provided 54809 tube wells, 2250 sanitary wells and 395 piped water supply projects to ensure safe drinking water in rural areas in the last four years. During 2004-05, it has been programmed to instal 8843 tube wells, 400 sanitary wells and completion of 300 piped water supply projects. Under the participatory and community-led 'Sector Reform' and 'Swajaldhara', 6182 drinking water projects have been created based on the demand preference of the users. About 700 drinking water projects are under execution under 'Swajaldhara'. My Government has targeted to supply drinking water for all rural schools by the end of March, 2006 under potable drinking water facility. A Centrally Sponsored Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) Programme is being implemented in 15 districts with a financial outlay of RS.243 crore to improve the quality of life in rural areas.

21. My Government is keen to develop Gopalpur Port into an all weather Port with the help of a Private developer. A MoU has been signed by the State Government with *MIS* ISP Ltd. to establish a Mega Port of International Standard at Dhamra. Construction of proposed Port work is expected to begin soon. The State Government have announced a new "Port Policy" for development of all its 13 minor Ports. My Government is also going to have an Act called "Orissa Maritime Board Act" which will function as a single window facilitator for all maritime activities in the State. The Orissa State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) has been re-structured by reducing its operating units to 15 by closing down un-economical units. Railway network in the State has been increased due to efforts of my Government. Land Acquisition and construction work of the Railway projects namely, Daitari-Banspani new B.G. Rail Link Project, Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh Rail Link, Khurda Road-Bolangir New Broadgauge Rail Link, Haridaspur-Paradeep, Angul-Duburi-Sukinda Road, Talcher-Bimlagarh, Rupsa-Bangiriposi, Nuapada-Gunupur are under progress. East Coast Railway Zone is now fully operational w.e.f. 01.04.2003 due to persistent efforts of my Government. As a part of the e-governance initiative, computerization of major RTO offices and checkgates has been taken up. A pilot project for computerized driving licence system has been initiated in Bhubaneswar. My Government will further expand the scope of such initiatives to deliver instant services to the public.

22. Tourism has been identified as a key sector of development of the State. 292 places have already been identified as centres of tourist importance. Private Sector participation in augmenting tourist facilities and infrastructure is being encouraged by my Government. Steps have been taken to prepare Master Plans for development of (i) Buddhist Circuit of Dhauli, Ratnagiri-Lalitgiri-Udayagiri-Langudi (ii) Eco-tourism at Chilika and Bhitarkanika (iii) Destination of Puri, Gopalpur and Chandipur under the New National Tourism Policy. Development of Raghurajpur under the Rural Tourism project is nearing completion. Development of the area around Konark and a sound and light show at Khandagiri-Udayagiri caves are underway. Development of Tourism in the State is primarily dependant upon good communication facilities to the major tourist destinations. Keeping this in view, 7 road projects connecting important tourist destinations covering a length of 128 km. at an estimated cost of Rs.43.27 crores have been taken up and will be completed during the current year.

23. Orissa has a rich cultural heritage. My Government aims at preserving, protecting and promoting the cultural heritage of the State. Many schemes like Pension to Indigent Artists, Financial Assistance to Artists in distress, Preservation and Protection of Ancient Monuments etc. are being implemented. Efforts are made to encourage cultural activities among Oriya speaking people living outside the State. To commemorate the

contribution of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the State Government has converted Janakinath Bhawan at Cuttack as Netaji Birth Place Museum and opened to general public. Publication of "History of Freedom Movement in Orissa" is also in the pipe-line. Preservation of ancient monuments and their upgradation are being taken up on a massive scale out of funds made available by the Eleventh Finance. Commission.

24. Universalisation of Primary Education will continue to receive high priority of my Government. To meet the requirement of primary school teachers, 17,000 Swechhasevi Sikhya Sahayak (SSS) have been employed so far. The Government has provided contractual appointments in 1078 vacancies in the High Schools. My Government has taken decision to provide Grant-in-Aid (GIA) to 1394 eligible High Schools during 2004.

For universalisation of Elementary Education, the Scheme "Sarba Sikhya Abhijan" (SSA) has been implemented in all districts of the State with the assistance of Government of India. 780 new Primary Schools and 2771 new UP. Schools were opened under the scheme last year. To cover the children left out of the primary schools, 17,207 Education Guarantee Centres have been opened to enroll 7,28,000 school children last year. The Government has accorded permission to open 97 new High Schools and recognition to 116 High Schools last year. Steps have been taken to popularise Computer Education in the High Schools by including computer learning as an optional subject at Secondary level.

25. Higher Education plays a vital role in development. The curricula at Degree level and P.G. level have been modified as per U.G.C. guidelines. The Government has introduced courses in Information Technology and Bio-Technology at +2 level on self-financing basis in Government Colleges. Fifteen Government Colleges have been conferred autonomous status during the last four years, My Government has decided in principle to establish a State Open University in Orissa. In pursuance of the U.G.C. decision, steps have been taken by the Government to establish "National Institute of Science" at Bhubaneswar during 10th Plan period. Ravenshaw (Autonomous) College will be soon converted into Ravenshaw Collegiate University. Private education institutions play an important role in meeting educational needs of the State. In spite of severe financial constraint, the State Government has provided Grant-in-Aid towards the salary component of 448 Non-Government Colleges during last four years. Further, 39 (+2) Colleges and 114 (+3) Colleges have been admitted in the fold of Block Grant during the last year. Within the fiscal constraints, my Government is providing financial support for infrastructure development of Government Colleges and Junior Colleges. 90,000 Volunteers under NSS and 44,100 students under N.C.C. have been enrolled during last year. Scholarships have been awarded to meritorious students, children of primary and secondary school teachers, girl students pursuing technical/professional/management studies and Research Scholars. My Government is also taking keen interest to promote various sports activities in the State.

26. My Government is committed to provide better health care services to the people of the State. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India laid foundation stone of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose All India Institute of Medical Sciences on 15.07.03 at Bhubaneswar. It will open a new chapter in providing modern health care services to the people of the State. Many hospitals from district level to CHC level are being modernised with additional infrastructure, medicine, equipment etc. under the World Bank Assisted Orissa Health System Development Project. To provide better health care services in rural areas 25 PHCs have been upgraded to the level of CHCs. 100 new dispensaries each in Ayurveda and Homoeopathy have been opened during 2003-04 in order to strengthen the Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy. The intake capacity of MBBS seats of S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack has been increased from 107 to 150. Proposals have been submitted to the Government of India to increase seats in the MBBS course of the two Medical Colleges at Burla and

Berhampur.

My Government launched the "Infant Mortality Reduction Mission" in August, 2001 with the objective of reducing the Infant Mortality Rate to 60 per one thousand live births by 2005. Under this Mission, referral transportation cost and the cost of medicines shall be borne by the State Government. The National Pulse Polio Programme is being implemented throughout the State to make the State polio free. Malaria control programme and Tuberculosis control Programme are being implemented effectively in the State. For treatment of five common diseases - Malaria, Leprosy, Diarrhoea, Acute Respiratory Infections and Scabies my Government has initiated Panchabyadhi Scheme which guarantees free treatment including free medicines. Eight Regional Diagnostic Centres are going to be completed and would be operational soon under the 11th Finance Commission award at a cost of Rs.24 crore.

27. The decadal growth of urban population in the State is 29.78%. Large scale migration to urban areas has accelerated demand for infrastructural facilities, supply of safe drinking water, provision of sewerage systems and housing. My Government is committed to provide better civic amenities to the urban people by making adequate provision of safe drinking water supply alongwith proper sanitation facilities. Focus is being given on core activities like maintenance of roads, drainage, garbage clearance, waste disposal, street lighting and drinking water supply in the Urban Local Bodies. Keeping in view the need for land for housing in urban areas, my Government will take steps to release need-based surplus Government land. The Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) is implemented in the State for providing dwelling units to the poor slum dwellers. People's participation is necessary to make cities and towns clean, green and beautiful. Unauthorised and illegal constructions, particularly on road side land, drains and other public facilities are a cause for concern and will be discouraged.

28. My Government is keen to devolve powers and responsibilities upon Panchayati Raj Institutions so as to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. 21 subjects of 11 Departments have been transferred to Panchayati Raj Institutions. Functionaries of 11 Departments will remain accountable to respective level of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Capacity building of elected people's representative is being taken up on regular basis including off campus and GRAMSAT training. Computerization of Block accounts and accounts of District Rural Development Agencies has been taken up. In order to enhance transparency and accountability, information on rural development schemes upto GP. levels will be made available through the Government website. My Government has taken up massive housing programme. After the super cyclone of 1999, 6,65,297 additional IAY houses have been completed till the end of April, 2004 out of 7 lakh with an expenditure of Rs.1456.46 crores. The remaining 34703 houses are in progress. Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (Gramin Awas) is being implemented in 21 districts. The Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana is in operation w.e.f. 1.4.2002. Against availability of 3.27 lakh MT of foodgrains, 3.151akh MT of foodgrains has been utilised till the end of March, 2004 generating 618.571akh mandays. In order to provide wage employment in areas affected by flood of 2003, 3 lakh MT of grains allocated to the State have been distributed for utilisation to different Departments and ORDAs for creation of wage employment. Under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), 59,289 Swarozgaries have been assisted including 3514 Self Help Groups. An amount of Rs.66.99 crores has been spent during 2003-04. The Census of families Below Poverty Line (BPL Census) has commenced on 6th January, 2003. It will help update information on the list of BPL families. My Government is taking steps to bridge the rural urban divide and to provide urban facilities in rural areas. To begin with, 3347 market sheds have been completed in such areas which are developing as growth centres under Biju Gramin Bazar Yojana. Sanitation, drainage, street-lighting, and drinking water

facilities will be provided in such areas. The most populous villages in each of the 6234 GPs are being provided with concrete roads-cum-drains. Subsequently, the next most populous village of each GP. will be provided with concrete roads with drainage facility. One big Tank capable of providing water round the year for protective irrigation and for other purposes will be excavated in each Panchyat Samiti.

29. The Public Distribution System has an effective network in the State. 5,05,500 poorest of the poor families have been covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana by giving rice @ 35 Kg. per family per month. My Government has taken steps to identify 2,53,000 more families including primitive tribal communities in the State. 64,800 senior citizens, who have not been covered under the Old Age Pension Schemes, are being provided 10 Kg. rice per beneficiary per month under Annapurna Scheme.

My Government has taken effective steps to protect the rights of the consumer. The State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission and 31 District Consumer Redressal Forums have been set up for expeditious trial. of the consumer disputes.

30. All-round development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities in the State is an important priority for my Government. With a view to protecting the land interests of the Scheduled Tribes living- in the Scheduled areas in the State, my Government has amended the Orissa Scheduled Areas (Transfer of Immovable Property by Scheduled Tribes), Regulation, 1956 completely prohibiting alienation of lands belonging to the tribal land owners and prescribing stringent measures against those who try to acquire tribal lands illegitimately. Effective steps have been taken to protect the tribals from the exploitation of the money lenders. My Government is making all out efforts to bring the STs and SCs at par with the rest of the population with a special thrust on education among the tribal population. Various poverty-alleviating programmes are being implemented through 21 Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA), 46 Modified Area Development Approaches (MADA), 17 Micro Projects and 14 Clusters. The Orissa Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Co-operative Corporation Ltd. and the Other Backward Classes Finance and Development Cooperative Corporation are implementing various economic development programmes for the target vulnerable sections through bankable schemes. Adequate steps have been taken by my Government to provide educational opportunities to SCs and STs children in the High Schools, Ashram Schools, Kanyashrams, Residential Sevashrams, Sevashrams etc. with adequate hostel facilities. Free distribution of Nationalised Text Books, Reading and Writing Materials and free coaching to the SC, ST students continue to be ensured. Representation of SCs and STs in public employment is being enforced through the Orissa Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for SCs and STs) Act, 1975.

During 2003-04, 389 Irrigation projects, 42 roads, 337 CD works, 252 Drinking Water projects, 273 Institutional Buildings have been completed and 37 Tribal Bastees have been electrified by the ITDAs. With a view to improving the income of the tribal households and the productivity of their land to provide them a better life, my Government has launched a programme named "Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme" (OTELP) w.e.f. 15.07.03 with a proposed outlay of Rs.430. 73 crores in 30 tribal blocks of seven southern districts with assistances from IFAD, DFID and WFP. Under the ongoing Central Sector Programme of "Tackling Food Insecurity in the Tribal Areas", 584 Grain Banks (renamed as Subhalaxmi Sashya Bhandar) have been established in the State so far, at a cost of Rs.427:21 lakhs in remote and vulnerable tribal areas to overcome the problems of food insecurity of tribal people during lean periods of the year.

31. My Government will continue to strive hard for the development of women and children, particularly through the Integrated Child Development Services Programme. 16 out of 18 new ICDS Projects sanctioned by the Government of India have been operationalised during 2003-04. Concerted efforts for reduction of severe

malnutrition among children in the State have been made. All 326 ICDS Projects of the State have been covered under the Kishori Shakti Yojana which aims at the holistic development of the adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years. Special interventions like reduction of malnutrition and child mortality and construction of AWCs in KBK Districts have been taken up under RL TAP.

Mid-Day Meal Programme for the Primary School children. and Emergency Feeding Programme for the old, infirm, indigent and destitute persons would continue. As a social defence measure, my Government has targeted 6,40,000 beneficiaries of old and destitute persons of 60 years of age and above under the State Old Age Pension Scheme and 4,93,400 under the National Old Age Pension Scheme. The pension distribution system has been streamlined by providing photo identity cards to all such beneficiaries. Pension is now distributed on a fixed day on 15th of every month (Jana Seva Divas) at the Gram Panchayat Headquarters. Financial assistance of RS.1 0,000 as one time grant is being provided to a BPL family on death of primary breadwinner within the age group of 18-64 years under the National Family Benefit Scheme. Under 'Balika Samridhi Yojana' a post birth grant of RS.500 is provided for the first two girl children born in a BPL family after 15.8.1999, irrespective of total number of children in the family.

A Mission for Empowerment of Women through Self-help called 'Mission Shakti' was launched on International Women's Day 2001 to promote formation of groups and strengthening of existing Women's Self Help Groups in the State. Besides existing SHGs, 83,939 new SHGs have so far been formed in all districts of the State. These groups are taking up different economic activities like Kerosene dealership, Public Distribution System Outlets, Labour Intensive Works, Pisciculture, Poultry etc. Groups have been linked to credit flow from nationalized and other banks. The "Orissa Dowry Prohibition Rules" have been enacted and Dowry Prohibition Boards are functioning in all subdivisions of the State. The Centrally funded Swayamsiddha Scheme aimed at Women's empowerment through WSHG has been implemented in Orissa in 36 Blocks of the KBK districts and in Boudh. The Scheme for welfare of orphan and destitute children is running in the 28 districts of the State and 5603 children maintained in 85 different Orphanages. Aids and appliances are being provided to needy disabled persons throughout the State. Under the "Orissa Disability Pension Scheme", my Government has enhanced the target to 1,00,000 beneficiaries.

32. My Government is committed to the welfare of the working classes. Daily minimum wages for Unskilled, Semi-skilled, Skilled and highly skilled labourers were last enhanced in 2002. Child labourers employed in hazardous jobs have been released and admitted in National Child Labour Project schemes for undergoing formal education and vocational training in 18 districts of the State. 37,096 such children have been provided with education by the end of 2003-04. Full medical care has been extended in favour of 1,28,450 industrial labourers and their family members through a network of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries. 50 bedded Model Hospital at Rourkela has been functioning at the sole cost of the ESIC since May, 2003 to provide Specialist/Super Specialist treatment for ESI beneficiaries. It is proposed to open 6 new ESI Dispensaries in the coming years. Free Coaching is being imparted to women candidates to enable them to enter the Defence Services.

33. My Government has been making efforts to provide a people oriented administration and has made arrangements to hear and dispose public grievances expeditiously. In the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell more than 24000 grievance petitions have been disposed during the last four years. Arrangements have been made for expeditious disposal of pension cases through Pension Adalats. Financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) is being provided to indigent applicants for their treatment for major ailments like Cardiac Surgery, Kidney transplant and Cancer. During 2003-04 an assistance of Rs.289.98 lakhs was provided to 2549 persons under the CMRF.

My Government is committed to curbing corruption at all levels of Administration. The Institution of Lokpal has been created and activated to look into cases of corruption and impropriety by persons holding high office. In order to maintain transparency in Administration, the Vigilance Department is actively investigating charges of corruption against various public servants which include 197 Class-I and 98 Class-II officers.

34. In order to bring Land Administration closer to the people and for the convenience of general public, my Government has decided to integrate the settlement and consolidation work with Tahasils and rationalise the Land Administration at all levels from the Directorate to Tahasil. Additional Tahasildars have been posted in the Block Headquarters where there is no Tahasildar for easy access of people to the Land Administration. 99 Tahasil and 14 Registration Offices have been fully computerised. 16 more Registration Offices will be computerised during 2004-05. My Government during the last 4 years have distributed house sites to 1,02,874 Homestead families which includes 44,492 ST and 27,593 SC families. During the said period, 18,258 acres of Government wasteland and 1754 acres ceiling surplus land have also been distributed to the families belonging to SC, ST and other categories. In order to prevent starvation, power has been delegated to the local Sarpanch to identify individuals who are in starving condition in the locality and provide gratuitous relief (GR) instantly for a period of 10 days. Gratuitous relief amounting to Rs.50,000 has been given to the next kin- of the deceased in the natural calamity. My Government has formulated the scheme of Utkal Sabuja Gramya Yojana for leasing out Government Wasteland upto 50 acres in a Gram Panchayat for plantation purpose. My Government also initiated a new scheme for conversion of leasehold residential plots into freehold in Bhubaneswar Municipal Area during 2003. This scheme will improve flexibility in land transactions and reduce Government interference.

35. My Government is committed to provide "Justice to all". The State Human Rights Commission has been constituted w.e.f. 24.06.2003. The Commission, in the mean time has disposed 505 cases out of 1033 petitions received. Permanent and continuous Lok Adalats as well as counselling and conciliation centres have been functioning in all districts of the State to expedite disposal of cases through amicable settlement. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children and other weaker sections of the society are being provided Legal Aid in order to facilitate speedy delivery of justice. My Government actively considers establishing Legal Aid Cells in all the Jails, separate Lok Adalats in each Department of Government and statutory bodies to provide a forum for speedy settlement of disputes at minimal cost, and permanent Lok Adalats in all the districts for pre-litigation conciliation and settlement in respect of disputes relating to public utility services. Considering the need to strengthen judicial administration, 30 out of 72 Fast Track Courts have been made functional to clear the backlog of pending cases. My Government has established a permanent Judicial Academy in the State to impart training to the Judicial Officers.

36. The overall Law and Order situation of the State has been satisfactory in recent years. The simultaneous General Elections. 2004 passed off peacefully. The crime situation was well within control. Our people maintained perfect Communal Harmony during the last four years. The activities of left-wing extremists have been a cause for concern although Naxal violence has declined significantly due to sustained and determined efforts of my Government. One Special Intelligence Wing (SIW) is being put in place to tackle the problems associated with extremism and terrorism. The programme for modernisation of the Police Force has remained a priority for my Government. Steps will also be taken to continue the ongoing programme for improvement of housing and other amenities for the police personnel.

37. I have taken this opportunity to outline the policies and programmes of my Government in priority areas of activity. It has not been my purpose to list out achievements of my Government or to present a resume of all schemes and programmes that will be taken up. I have only sought to highlight some of the important

aspects of my Government's policy and' performance. It is necessary to note that my Government will make every effort to implement the promises made in the Common Programme inspite of the financial constraints. My Government is committed to infuse new vigour and renewed dynamism for good governance of the State and seeks co-operation from all sections of the Society to achieve this objective. .

You have important business to transact during the next few days of the Session. I am confident, your discussions will be fruitful and beneficial to the people of the State. I now leave you to your valuable deliberations.

JAI HIND