

Honourable Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the Annual Financial Statement for the Financial Year 2014-15 to this August House.

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The Ma Mati Manush of Bengal have repeatedly reposed their faith in the Government led by the courageous and indomitable Mamata Banerjee. The Panchayat election during this financial year offers testimony to the overwhelming confidence of the people of Bengal on this Government. The common people have felt the pulse of change and have read the signs of a renaissance of Bengal and therefore, I take pride in presenting the full Budget by first saluting the valiant people of the great State of Bengal.

Namaskar, As-Salam Alaikum

THE MACRO ECONOMIC PARAMETERS OF 2013-14:

In the Budget last year, I was able to demonstrate how Bengal was growing at a faster rate than India.

This year, Bengal is growing even faster than the last year on the GDP front.

While India's GDP growth will be 4.9% in 2013-14, Bengal's GSDP growth will be 7.7%. In agriculture, while India's growth will be 4.6%, Bengal's growth will be 5.28%. Industry's growth in India will be 0.7% while Bengal's growth will be 9.58%. In services too, while India's growth will be 6.9% Bengal's growth will be 7.8%. Sir, Bengal is on the march. (Source: Central Government CSO & BOAER, GoWB)

These figures (from Central Statistical Organisation and Bureau of Allied Economics and Statistics) testify that Bengal is growing rapidly, outpacing the nation.

Based on these irrefutable and highly positive statistics, I say to those handful, who speak negatively about Bengal that they do so with an ulterior political motive based on falsehood.

I would like to remind this august house that not only did the centre refuse to help the people of Bengal to get out of the 'Debt trap' left behind by the Left Front government, it also cut off unbearable quantum from the treasury against the debt while many legitimate dues were denied.

Sir, a huge sum of Rs 69,065.81 Crores were cut off to pay for the sins of the Left Front Government during 2011-12 to 2013-14. Imagine how many roads, bridges, schools, colleges, water works could have been built with this money, how many backward and minority community youth could have found a new life! Common people will never forgive the Left Front Government for denying them these great opportunities.

To make matters worse, now the Central government has cut off the CST compensation to the West Bengal Government to the tune of Rs. 3783.43 crores and you would be shocked to know that in the months of January and February, the Central government has cut off a total of Rs 850.42 crore from the devolution fund, which is our constitutional right. This is shameful.

Not only this Sir, it is shocking that during 2012-13 (As per AG actual) the Grant-in-Aid contributions of the Central Government to us has registered a negative growth of -11.13%, from Rs.13888.82 crore in 2011-12 to Rs.12342.84 crore in 2012-13. This is unforgivable.

As for the Left Front Governments, there are some shocking data on undermining the development impetus. There was a massive contraction in the State Plan Expenditure in 2010-11 to the tune of -58.53% over 2009-10. In contrast, in 2012-13 our Government increased the State Plan Expenditure by 34.95 (from Rs.14074.52 crore to Rs.18,994.11 crores - AG actual)

Sir, last year many unsuspected people of West Bengal were duped of their hard earned savings in Sarada Scam. In this hour of misery, Hon'ble Chief Minister extended the support of the State Government to about 4 lacs (3,95,842) affected small investors.

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Out of the large number of initiatives of the State Government I will highlight only some of them which will compel us to say "What Bengal has done today, India will do tomorrow".

Mamata Banerjee had a dream of empowering the 'girl child' in a manner never done in the history of the nation. Thus was born the project 'KANYASHREE' which I tabled last year. Within this financial year not only has the project moved rapidly forward, the United Nations International Children Fund (UNICEF) has joined our Government in this unique endeavour. You will be pleased to know that by March, 2014, 15 lakh girls would have registered as our proud 'Kanyashrees'. Our target for fresh registration in 2014-15 is set at 20 lakh.

This amazing project will now be adopted by many State Governments across India.

At one time, it was said that what Bengal thinks today, India will think tomorrow. But now, Mamata Banerjee has an added Slogan: 'What Bengal has done today, India will do tomorrow'.

Allow me to take another example of this from health. As the Health Minister, Mamata Banerjee had another dream of bringing fair price medicines to the common people of Bengal. Thus was born the 'FAIR PRICE MEDICAL SHOP'. I am proud to say that already 60 Fair Price Medicine Shops are functioning across the State giving discounts between 48%-67% and running successfully in the PPP Mode.

In fact, State Governments across India are looking to adopt this 'fair price shop model'. Even the Honourable Members of the 14th Finance Commission of India, who had come to Kolkata, decided to visit a Fair Price Shop at the IPGMER Hospital. For them seeing was believing. Sir, they opined that other States of the nation should adopt this unique model. Now I believe, the Government of India is asking all States to emulate this model. 'What Bengal has done today, India will do tomorrow'.

I bring another example. A new record was created under the Chief Minister's leadership that has never been seen in the history of India. On January 7, 2014, West Bengal launched a huge initiative on road networks in all of the 3,349 Gram Panchayats of the State. Ministers, MLAs and Secretaries simultaneously launched the construction of 3,349 rural roads connecting villages and agricultural lands. This unique effort is creating 16,000 kilometers of village roads using MGNREGS. Now other States are looking to adopt this model. Sir, 'What Bengal has done today, India will do tomorrow'.

Finally, among many such examples, I draw on the amazing examples of Jangal Mahal and Darjeeling. Today, the Central Government and the

nation's security establishment are telling all other LWE affected States of India to follow Bengal's transformational model in the districts of Jangal Mahal which were visited by Honourable Chief Minister over 30 times to nurture courage, confidence and development. Darjeeling too, Sir, is peaceful and smiling today.

Sir, 'What Bengal has done today, India will do tomorrow'.

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4.1 Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing, Food Processing & Horticulture

The production of food grains during 2012-13 was 165.61 lakh MT which was a record and in 2013-14 it is expected to reach 174 lakh MT, creating another record.

The State proudly received the Government of India's 'Krishi Karma Award' in 2012-13 for the second successive year for overall agricultural production.

Since May, 2011 upto December, 2013, 23, 89,293 Kishan Credit Cards (KCC) have been issued involving credit disbursement of Rs.14,402 crore. By March, 2014, the figure is expected to reach 28 lakh KCCs.

Direct benefit transfer was introduced for purchase of agricultural machinery benefitting 67,000 farmers.

Innovative schemes, 'Amar Fasal Amar Gola' and 'Amar Fasal Amar Gari' were introduced for providing financial assistance to the farmers for storage facilities and van rickshaw or vending cart and poly crates respectively.

Sir, the crop insurance has been extended to 15 horticulture crops. Cultivation of kharif onions has been introduced for the first time in Bengal.

I propose to allocate Rs 1157.72 crore to the Agriculture, Rs 225 crore to the Agri-Marketing and Rs 120 crore to the Food Processing & Horticulture Departments for the financial year 2014-15.

4.2 Food Security: Food & Supplies

The construction of godowns of 5.755 lakh MT is underway.

3 crore ration cards have been digitized till now.

3.2 crore people have benefitted from the programme of Rs.2/- per kg. of rice and Rs.5/- per 750 grams of wheat. These vulnerable groups include BPL, AAY and those from Jungalmahal, Singur, tea gardens, Aila affected Sundarbans and backward blocks of Birbhum.

In order to prevent starvation of the workers and their families of the closed tea gardens, the State Government has recently announced the opening of Fair Price Shops (FPS) in these closed gardens. The State Government has also decided to take the responsibility of supply of foodgrains in the closed tea gardens.

I propose to allocate Rs 175.20 crore to the Food and Supplies Department for the financial year 2014-15.

4.3 Animal Resource Development and Fisheries

Under Bishes Gosampad Vikash Abhiyan, 2.50 lakh cross-breed cows have been taken up for scientific management. This will yield additional 4 lakh MT of milk.

Sir, Government aims at attaining self-sufficiency in fish production, a vision missing for 34 years. A special task force on fisheries was formed to take forward the vision of the Honourable Chief Minister. A Hilsha Conservation Centre has been set up at Sultanpur. Through convergence of activities of different departments, pisciculture has been introduced in large water bodies. 326 water bodies in agricultural farms have also been utilized for fish farming.

I propose to allocate Rs 356.85 crore and Rs 196 crore to the Departments of Animal Resource Development, Fisheries respectively for the next financial year.

4.4 Rural Development, Housing and Drinking Water

During 2012-13, the State for the first time could spent Rs.4,480.53 crore under the MGNREGA scheme, 109% of the available funds, which in terms of utilization is highest in the country.

Under PMGSY, 3500 kms of road length would be constructed during 2013-14 at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1,500 crores.

During 2013-14, more than 2,50,000 lakh houses would be completed under the IAY and Adhikar Scheme.

Since May, 2011, 83,000 houses have been constructed under the Geetanjali scheme for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) with total cost of around Rs.1,000 crore.

By January 2014, 5,07,807 household latrines, 6,190 school toilets, 4,168 Anganwadi toilets and 116 sanitary complexes for women were constructed.

Sir, in Jangalmahal, 50 drinking water schemes (47 completed) at a cost of Rs. 141.70 crore benefitting 3.14 lakh people have been taken up.

Arsenic mitigation project of Rs. 118.90 crore has started in Haringhata benefitting 3.16 lakh people and in Chakdah of project cost Rs.101.98 crores benefitting 3.38 lakh people.

Surface water schemes of Rs.150.68 crore have been taken up in the salinity affected blocks of Bally-Jagachha in Howrah covering 2.86 lakh population, Panskura-II block in Purba Medinipur of Rs.241.72 crore and in Habra and Gaighata in North 24 Parganas of Rs. 578.94 crore covering population of 18.04 lakh.

Till December, 2013, we have exceeded our target in providing drinking water facilities to schools and Anganwadis by 163 per cent and 204 per cent respectively.

Sir, to give safe drinking water to 1 crore population, water supply schemes of Rs.5,000 crore have been taken up.

I propose to allocate Rs 7460.22 crore, Rs 700 crore, and Rs 1336.32 crore to the Departments of Panchayat and Rural Development, Housing and Public Health Engineering respectively in the next financial year.

4.5 Health, Family Welfare and Women Development

Hon'ble Chief Minister has given a big thrust to health care with a focus on 'mother and child'.

36 Sick New Born Care Units (SNCUs) have started and another 12 SNCUs will start soon. 124 Sick New Born Stabilization Units (SNSUs) will be operationalized soon. Neo Natal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) and Paediatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs) are being set up in medical colleges at Malda, Murshidabad and North 24 Parganas.

With the addition of 21 Basic Emergency and 28 Comprehensive Emergency Obstetrics Care Units, the State will have operational 525 Basic and 139 Comprehensive Emergency Obstetrics Care Centres. 12 Mother and Child Hubs (MCH) will soon be operationalized. As a result of these interventions, maternal mortality rate (MMR) has declined from 145 to 117.

Diagnostic services for digital X-Ray, MRI, CT Scan and Dialysis, being implemented at 47 Government hospitals under PPP, will become functional by September, 2014.

Nine Trauma Care Centres are also being set up in the State.

Four new medical colleges and hospitals are being established at Cooch Behar, Dhubulia (Nadia), Bhangore (South 24 Parganas) and Kurseong (Darjeeling) under PPP.

60 Fair Price Medical Shops have caught the imagination of the nation and the world.

Of course, I have already spoken of the unique 'Kanyashree Prakalpa', a brainchild of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, has evoked massive response. We are also constructing a large number of Anganwadi centres through convergence of activities of various Departments.

I propose to provide Rs 2211.06 crore, Rs 770.76 crore and Rs 2420 crore to the Departments of Health & Family Welfare, Women Development & Social Welfare and Child Development Departments respectively in the next financial year.

4.6 School, Higher and Technical Education

Sir, presently, more than 99 per cent primary schools and 98 per cent upper primary schools have been covered under the Mid-day meal.

The toilet coverage under school sanitation programme is 98.26 per cent schools and separate toilets for girls is more than 82 per cent schools.

During 2014-15, four more model schools at Hingalgunj, Matikole, Kalchini (Hindi) and Metiali (Hindi) will be added to the 33 already under construction.

Construction of 105 girls hostels, 40 new integrated school buildings with hostels (23 in LWE areas) in backward districts of the State has been taken up.

In the next financial year, 397 schools will be upgraded from high to higher secondary and 50 from junior high to high school. 111 new primary schools and 452 upper primary schools will be constructed.

1171 para-teachers of Santhali and Alchiki have been engaged in the 640 schools in Bankura, Paschim Medinipur and Purulia.

Sir, the reservation of 17% seats in higher education institutions for OBC students will start from 2014-15 academic session, without reducing the seats of general category students.

Five new State-aided Universities at Diamond Harbour (Women's University), Bankura, Cooch Behar, Asansol and Raiganj and one private university have been set up.

In contrast to only 32 Government Colleges since independence and upto May, 2011, our Government has sanctioned 31 new Government colleges, four in Junglemahal. These colleges are in different stages of

construction. The State's first Hindi medium college is coming up at Banarhat in Jalpaiguri. The construction of the Government Engineering Colleges in Purulia and Coochbehar has started.

The State Government has also provided land to the St. Xaviers and Presidency Universities for setting up of second campus.

Sir, the reorientation of Polytechnics and ITIs has begun with the mandate of having a "Sector in Focus". The State Technical Training Centre at Rajarhat has started functioning. Joint collaboration with various industrial houses like Samsung, Raymond has been made to produce skilled work force.

With the objective of setting up one Polytechnic in every Sub-Division and one ITI in every Block, we are establishing in Phase-I, 40 Polytechnics and 83 ITIs in the State.

I propose to allocate Rs. 6884.5 Crore, Rs. 342.95 Crore and Rs. 549 Crore to the Departments of School Education, Higher Education and Technical Education and Training respectively in the next financial year.

4.7 Minorities, Backward Classes, Tribal Development and Self Help Groups

During 2013-14, 22 lakh minority students will be provided pre-matric and post-matric scholarships taking the figure to 57 lakh students since May, 2011. Educational incentives have been provided to

1,16,499 girl students of Class IX to XII. Till now, more than 2 lakh bicycles have been provided to minority and SC/ST girl students.

In 151 blocks of 15 districts with minority concentration, projects worth Rs.550 crore have been taken up, with a total plan size of Rs.1,100.70 crore.

In 2013-14, 34,150 minority beneficiaries have been provided housing at a cost of Rs. 441 Crore.

18 Minority Bhavans are being set up in all the districts of the State.

109 Marketing Hubs for minorities are being constructed.

Urdu Medium schools are being set up in the areas having high concentration of Urdu speaking population.

The State Government has also extended the benefit of reservation to Muslim minorities under the OBC quota.

Since May 2011, 1400 graveyards at a cost of Rs. 66 crores have been taken up for protection.

The Third Haj House is under construction in New Town at a cost of Rs.96.40 crore. New campus of Aliah University is under construction at a cost of Rs.298 crore.

Sir, the Government has announced the separation of Backward Classes Welfare and Tribal Development to give special focus to each one of these vital areas.

We have, during the current financial year, given pre-matric scholarships/book grants to 36,95,683 students (12 lakh to tribal students) and post-matric scholarships to 11,42,745 students belonging to SC/ST and OBC communities.

In the calendar year 2013, 9,44,155 Caste Certificates have been issued, an all-time record. Online processing of application for both scholarship and caste certificate has started in 43 sub-divisions.

A 'Tribes Advisory Council' under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister has been formed and the Mayel Lyang Lepcha Board has started functioning.

Old-age pension has till now been provided to 1,30,463 tribals in 2013-14 for a sum of Rs. 128.25 Crores.

Sir, 8 Training-cum-Marketing Complexes for self-help groups have been constructed and 14 more complexes will be constructed. I will take up two major SHG schemes in detail in later part of my speech.

I propose a plan outlay of Rs. 1737 crore, Rs. 377.66 crore, Rs. 424.30 crore and Rs. 305.30 crore to the Departments of Minority Development & Madrasah Education, Backward Classes Welfare,

Tribal Development and Self Help Group and Self Employment in the next financial year.

4.8 Labour Welfare

Sir, as a result of remarkable improvement in the work culture, loss of man days has been reduced to NIL.

85,000 unemployed youth are currently being assisted through Yuvashree scheme introduced last year. The registration of beneficiaries since inception under the Provident Fund for Un-organised Workers (SASPFUW) has increased significantly to 41,78,864. Since May 2011 upto January 2014, 19,31,748 beneficiaries have been registered under the scheme. Since its launch in July, 2012, Samajik Mukti Card has been provided to over 7.5 lakh beneficiaries. During the next financial year, we plan to enrol 6 lakh unorganised workers under SASPFUW and issue 10 lakh Samajik Mukti Cards.

I propose to allocate the Labour Department Rs. 220 crore in the next financial year.

4.9 Home Department

Ten additional women police stations have been set up, taking the total number of such dedicated police stations to twenty. To provide speedier justice,

eighty eight (88) new fast track courts, forty five (45) *Mahila Adalats*, nineteen (19) Human Rights courts and three (3) CBI courts have been notified or set up.

A new ownership housing scheme called *Pratyasha*, for police personnel of both West Bengal Police and Kolkata Police, ranging from Constables to Inspectors is being introduced, wherein the Government will provide land free of cost to construct 10,000 housing units in three years.

I propose to allocate the Home (Police) Department Rs. 247.67 crore in the next financial year.

4.10 Land and Forest

Sir, since May, 2011, more than 1 lakh pattas have been distributed. Another 52,000 cases are ready for distribution under Nija Griha Nija Bhumi.

Digitization of maps and construction of 90 modern record rooms will be completed within this financial year.

Sir, in 2013-14, the Forest and the Bio-Diversity Conservation Project of Rs.400 crore was launched with assistance of JAICA of Japan.

The Eco-Tourism Project at Jhargram has been completed.

I propose to provide plan outlay of Rs 105 crore and Rs 245.62 crore to the Departments of Land & Land Reforms and Forest respectively in the next financial year.

4.11 Information and Cultural Affairs

Sir, Hon'ble Chief Minister has recently inaugurated 6 newly constructed floors of the Technicians' Studio each named after Satyajit Ray, Rittwik Ghatak, Uttam Kumar, Suchitra Sen, Tapan Sinha and Rituparno Ghosh.

Medical insurance for Cine and Television workers and their family members has been introduced. We expect to cover more than 4,500 workers in 2014-15.

A scheme has been started to disseminate information and social messages through local folk artists to keep the folk arts alive and ensure their livelihood.

'Roy Villa' at Darjeeling (associated with Sister Nivedita) has been declared a Heritage Building and handed over to the Ramakrishna Mission authorities.

In the next financial year, we will start construction of Cultural Hub at Rabindrasadan-Nandan Complex. Awards have been instituted in 28 categories for honouring artistes in different fields.

I propose to allocate Rs 165 crore to the Information and Cultural Affairs Department in the financial year 2014-15.

4.12 Sports & Youth Development

Construction work of stadium at Salboni and sports academy at Jhargram will be completed during 2014-15.

A sports hostel and an indoor stadium in Purulia will be completed by June, 2014. The upgradation of stadiums at Suri in Birbhum, Bhatar in Burdwan, Rajbati in Cooch behar, Lebong in Darjeeling, Uluberia in Howrah, Krishnanagar in Nadia, Rakhal Das Memorial Stadium in Tamuk have been taken up.

Existing stadiums at Naihati, Malda, Contai, Balurghat, Gangarampur, Nabadwip and Cooch Behar would be renovated. New stadiums would be developed in Hooghly and Uttar Dinajpur.

A new residential football academy would become operational in North 24 Parganas in 2014-15.

Since May, 2011, 14,573 clubs were given assistance to the tune of Rs.126 crore for sports equipment, coaching and sports events.

In 2014-15, new youth hostels will be taken up at Mayapur, Nabadwip, Gajoldoba, Puri, Raichak, Kolkata and Chennai.

The construction of 22 Community Development Centres in Jhargram are also being taken up.

I propose to allocate Rs. 142 crore and Rs. 130 crore to the Departments of Sports and Youth Services respectively in the next financial year.

4.13 Road Infrastructure, Transport, Power and Irrigation and Waterways

Sir, 158 road projects of 2,188 km and 13 bridge projects in 11 backward districts are under implementation at a cost of Rs. 1,867.80 Crores.

West Bengal Highway Development Corporation has started the four-laning of Dankuni to Chandannagar at a cost of Rs. 318.45 Crores.

The Nepal to Bangladesh Corridor and Bhutan to Bangladesh Corridor is proposed for improvement with ADB assistance.

Sir, the Boards of CTC, CSTC and WBSTC are being integrated. Around 1,000 buses are being procured for Kolkata, Asansol, Siliguri and Jalpaiguri at a cost of Rs.500 crore.

In an effort to restructure the work force with a human face, 861 employees of State Transport Undertakings (STUs) have opted for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

Sir, West Bengal is one of the few select States in the country with 24 X 7 availability of power.

Major rural electrification drive under Sabar Ghare Alo is already underway in 11 backward districts.

In 2014, an additional 1250MWs of power would be added through modernization of Durgapur Projects Limited and Sagardighi.

Sir, we are implementing an innovative rain-water harvesting scheme known as *Jal Dharo, Jal Bharo* which was designed on the initiative of Hon'ble Chief Minister. Till now 1,01,886 structures have been completed, far in excess of the original yearly target of 10,000 water bodies.

Desiltation of 173.3 km of Keleghai-Kapileswari-Bagai basin will be completed by March, 2014. Work on Icchamati River has now been resumed.

Bank protection work in Malda, Murshidabad and Purba Medinipur has been completed.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1776.51 crore, Rs. 400 crore, Rs. 1174 crore and Rs. 1872.49 crore to the Departments of Public Works & Public Works (Road), Transport, Power and Irrigation & Waterways respectively in the next financial year.

4.14 Urban Development & Municipal Affairs

During 2013-14, 10 Water Supply Projects in different municipalities and Corporations will be completed.

The Vivekananda Road Flyover is being executed in full swing. The construction of elevated road between Zinjira Bazar and Batanagar will be starting shortly.

Under the Integrated Housing for Slum Dwellers Programme (IHSDP), 46,151 housing units will be completed by the end of financial year.

73 urban local bodies including Kolkata Municipal Corporation have introduced e-Governance system for services like birth certificates, death certificates, trade licence, building plans, etc. Other urban bodies will be covered by September, 2014.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1585 crore and Rs. 2251.59 crore to the Departments of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs respectively in the next financial year.

4.15 North Bengal & Sundarbans Development

The Branch Secretariat “Uttar Kanya” at Jalpaiguri was constructed in a record time and the first historic Cabinet meeting was recently held there.

Construction work of 7 new Government colleges at Dhupguri, Ghoksadanga, Nishiganj, Banarhat, Chopra, Manikchak and Kumarganj will be completed during 2014-15.

The construction of the bridge at Chopra will be completed by October, 2014. The bridges at Paharipur, Kacchua, Kahlai and Patapur would be

completed by March, 2015. The construction of a 1.8 km long Bhutni Bridge at Manikchak and bridge over Kaljani in Cooch Behar will start soon.

Jalpaiguri Sports Complex will be completed by August, 2014.

Work of Mazaharsharif at Haldibari at an estimated cost of Rs. 4 crore will be taken up.

Sir, construction of 6 bridges in different Blocks in Sundarban region has been taken up.

Extension of grid power in Sagar Block is nearing completion.

We plan to construct 100 km of brick and bituminous roads during 2014-15.

I propose to provide plan outlay of Rs. 375 crore and Rs 300 crore to the Departments of North Bengal Development and Sundarban Affairs in the next financial year.

4.16 Tourism

Sir, a Mega Tourism Project at Jharkhali has made significant progress. Letter of Intent (LOI) has been issued for a budget hotel and a 3-Star hotel.

Joint venture agreement has been executed for Heritage Tourism at Jhargram RajBari in Paschim Medinipur.

In the Mega Tourism Project at Gajaldoba infrastructure development work of more than Rs.100 crore has been taken up by different departments. The construction of 20 cottages, budget accommodation and a youth hostel is already underway.

During 2013-14, 'Beautiful Bengal' was showcased at the international tourism fair at Jaipur, Singapore and London.

I propose to allocate Rs 223 crore to the Tourism Department in the next financial year.

4.17 Large, Small & Medium Industry and Information Technology

During the first half of 2013-14, Bengal is now Number One across the country in credit flow to SME sector. Bank credit has grown by a staggering 105% from Rs.4,331 crore to Rs.8,900 crore.

A textile park is being set up in Belur, Howrah on a 75 acres of land.

The Biswa Bangla Brand has been created at the initiative of Hon'ble Chief Minister to promote Bengal's handloom, crafts, folk culture, music, GI products and other traditional items including sweets.

The new industrial policy with attractive incentive scheme has been hailed as one of the best in the country. Since May, 2011, Rs. 528.22 crore has been disbursed as incentives.

The Core Committee on Industries was reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Since 2013, through initiatives of the Commerce & Industries, 150 new industrial projects have either been initiated or implemented.

14 projects have been cleared and 13 recommended under 14Y of the W.B.L.R. Act, with proposed investment of about Rs. 67,000 crore.

Sir, construction in 8 IT parks out of the 13 has started. Hardware Park at Sonarpur and two Greenfield Electronic Manufacturing Clusters at Naihati and Falta have been taken up.

An Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) is being set up at Kalyani in the PPP mode.

I propose to allocate Rs. 536.28 Crore, Rs. 594 crore and Rs. 126.70 crore to the Departments of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce and Industries and IT respectively for the financial year 2014-15.

NEW FRONTIERS

5.1. The scourge of unemployment is presently haunting the entire nation. In this context, the success of the State is commendable. During 2013-14, we have surpassed our target and we have created 13,22,000 new employment opportunities.

The main thrust of this Budget also is to give a big push to the momentum of employment of the unemployed youth of the State. With this objective in mind, we plan to create more than 16 lakh new employment opportunities in the next financial year.

5.2. Under the MGNREGA Scheme, 56,93,870 households were provided employment in 2012-13. Till January this year, 43,65,990 households have been given employment under the scheme. Additional employment has been created under various rural development schemes like PMGSY and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

5.3. Skill development has been started for boys and girls belonging to the minority community to prepare them for employment. Already 61,918 minority youth have been trained by the Aliah University in collaboration with Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and many of

them have got employment. Since May, 2011, around 2 lakh minority boys and girls have been trained by this Corporation for employment in police and teaching institutions. During this time, through various credit linked schemes of the Corporation, 2,50,667 minority girls and boys have been self-employed.

5.4. With the objective of creating additional employment, a special thrust has been given to develop wayside amenities for tourists on important highways. 70 motels are being constructed. New tourist destinations are coming up at Jharkhali in Sunderbans, Gajoldoba in Jalpaiguri, Jhargram and other locations. The focus is to develop rural tourism, eco-tourism, tea tourism and other sectors. This year upto December, 2013, 2.80 crore domestic tourists out of whom 14.62 lakhs were foreign tourist have visited the State posting a growth of 16 per cent over the previous year. We expect this flow of tourists to increase manifold in the coming year which will open huge employment opportunities.

5.5. The total number of self-help groups (SHGs) in the State now stands at 6.88 lakh, the majority of them consist of poor women. Till now 1.02 lakh SHGs have been formed during the current financial year. Under the Swami Vivekananda Swanirbhar Karmasansthan Prakalpa, from May, 2011 till January, 2014, 75,075 persons have been given

subsidy for projects worth Rs.1,621 crore. Till now, the employment generated through this scheme is 2,23,363. A new sustainable livelihood project christened 'Muktidhara' has been started in the district of Purulia which will be extended to other districts in future.

5.6. The micro, small and medium scale sector are labour intensive by nature. During 2013-14 upto December 4,794 new micro, small and medium scale units were established providing employment to around 50,370 people. We plan to create more than 1 lakh jobs in this sector in the next financial year.

5.7. During the current financial year, with the initiative taken by the Commerce & Industries Department, 150 units were commissioned with investment of Rs. 17,732.01 crore. As a result, till January, 2014, additional new employment of 1,29,364 was created in this sector.

5.8. IT Sector in the state holds great potential for generation of employment. The 500 IT companies in the State are going in for expansion. IT professionals employed has gone up from 80,000 in 2009-10 to 1,30,000 in 2013-14. The IT exports have grown from Rs. 8,500 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 11,000 crores by

2012-13. We are hopeful that in the next financial year we will be able to create additional 1 lakh direct and indirect employment in IT and ITES sector.

5.9. Mother Dairy Calcutta turned into a profit making venture during fiscal 2012 – 13 and 2013 – 14. It currently provides employment to more than 15,000 youth engaged in marketing of milk and milk products. It has embarked to build modernised milk depots in Kolkata. It has also launched Ice Cream Push Cart Scheme for marketing their ‘Valentine’ brand of Ice-Cream. The turnaround of Mother Dairy has provided employment to many unemployed youth of the State.

5.10. Since May, 2011, sanction has been given for creation and filling of 1,32,002 new posts in the State Government .The recruitment of 43,472 primary and secondary teachers has been completed. Recruitment of nearly 400 Sub-Inspectors, 40,000 constables and 1,30,000 civic police volunteers has been done. Women constables have been recruited in large numbers. We have also initiated a special drive to fill up a large number of vacancies of the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) lying vacant for a large number of years. In a most innovative effort, the

State Government has set up “Civil Services Study Centre” for coaching local youth for IAS, IPS and WBCS (Executive).

5.11. With the objective of creating further productive employment in the transport sector, the State Government has recently introduced 4000 ‘No Refusal’ taxis in the Kolkata Metropolitan Area. This will create employment for more than 8,000 families.

5.12. The State Government has also sanctioned additional 3,717 posts of drivers, conductors and mechanic in the State Transport Undertakings (STUs) for plying of the additional buses. This will provide livelihood to a large number of families.

5.13. 11 blocks of Purulia are not covered under any piped water supply scheme. We propose to undertake a piped water supply scheme for these blocks through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assistance at an estimated cost of Rs. 588.83 crore. The project would benefit 12,67,385 people.

5.14. We are committed to take electricity to every household of the State and need to provide around 4.68 lakh connections to APL/BPL households. An allocation of Rs 100 Crore for this purpose is being made in the next financial year.

5.15. The State highways need to be widened and strengthened to 7meter width. This Government proposes to undertake widening of 1000 km. in the next financial year at a cost of Rs.1250 crore.

5.16. The construction of 95 Krishak Bazars at a cost of Rs. 536.40, would be completed by November'14. This will create an additional employment of 50,000 families in the next financial year. In 2014-15, construction of another 102 Krishak Bazars would be taken up at an expenditure of Rs. 620 crores, thus creating an additional employment opportunities for more than 55,000 families.

5.17. West Bengal has a large informal sector, self-employed, self-help groups, farmers, rural artisans and small and marginal businesses that has no access to organized markets for selling their products. We propose to set up 500 marketing complexes named "Karma Tirtha" at a cost of Rs.500 crore to help in the sale of their products. One lakh families will get employment in these "Karma Tirtha".

5.18. In the area of transport services, we propose to introduce a new scheme called "Gatidhara" which will create employment for about 50,000 families in the next financial year. The scheme will enable an unemployed person to purchase a vehicle with assistance from the State upto Rs. 1 lakh. I propose to allocate Rs.100 crore for the scheme.

5.19. With the objective to increase cropping intensity and multi cropping, I propose to introduce a new scheme called Direct Financial Support for Minor Irrigation Scheme (DFS-MIS) for providing direct assistance to the farmers for installation of source of irrigation. This benefit would be provided to one lakh farmers. An allocation of Rs. 500 crore is being made for the purpose.

5.20. The State Government has given a special thrust for increasing agricultural production in the arid region of the State comprising Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia and Paschim Medinipur. Out of the total cultivable area of 16.90 lakh hectares, 7.51 lakh hectares of cultivable land lacks irrigation facility. During 2014-15, the State Government proposes to bring 50,000 hectares of land under minor irrigation at an estimated cost of Rs.500 crore.

5.21. Sir, small and medium businesses, which are the largest employers in our State often find it difficult to avail bank credit. To give a boost to such small businesses, our government will facilitate the launch of a Micro Business Credit Card (MBCC) on the lines of Kishan Credit Card (KCC). This card will be introduced from 1st April, 2014 by State Bank of India (SBI) and we expect other banks to follow suit. MBCC card will assist entrepreneurs to avail credit up to Rs 5 lakhs for any licensed business activity including purchase of shops.

5.22. Hon'ble Members, North 24 Parganas district used to be a hub of industrial activity. Due to anti-trade and anti-industry policy adopted by the previous government, most of the industries are either closed or sick leading to a huge unemployment. We propose to set up an Integrated Powerloom Park at Ashoknagar, Habra at an investment of Rs. 150 crores. The park would be set up on 39 acres of vacant land of the existing Kalyani Spinning Mill Unit – II which is presently closed. The existing employees would be absorbed in various departments of the State Government. The integrated park would be set up under Public Private Partnership (PPP) with 24% stakes of the State Government. The park will provide 4000 direct employment and 3000 indirect employment.

5.23. The increased spending by our Government has led to creation of massive employment opportunities for unemployed youth. We will further increase State Plan spending in the next financial year which will create additional opportunities in the State.

In totality, in all the new programmes and schemes proposed for the next financial year, the focus is to generate massive employment opportunities for unemployed youths of the State.

While on one hand this will make a dent in the problem of unemployment on the other hand it will give a boost to the economy of the State.

Tax Proposals

6.1. Sir, in my last two Budgets, we had raised the tax exemption limit of profession tax for low salaried class and wage earners from Rs. 3,000 to Rs.5,000 per month and then from Rs.5,000 to Rs.7,000. I propose to further raise this limit to Rs. 8,500 so that no salaried person has to pay profession tax even if his salary is more than Rs. 1 lakh per annum. This will give relief to lakhs of employees.

6.2. Today, professionals have to pay profession tax on annual gross income exceeding Rs. 18,000. Sir, I propose to increase the exemption limit to Rs. 60,000 per annum. Similarly, businessmen and traders have to pay profession tax irrespective of any turnover. Sir, I propose to provide exemption of profession tax upto turnover of Rs. 5 lakh to help lakhs of small businessmen.

6.3. Sir, after far-reaching reforms in the VAT, this year I propose to introduce major structural reforms in profession tax administration.

6.4. The profession tax schedule at present runs into several pages with nearly hundred entries. I propose to reduce to 4.

6.5. Sir, obtaining registration or enrolment under profession tax is very cumbersome and time-taking. I propose to introduce automatic enrolment and registration through the web-based electronic module and self-generation of the dematerialised registration or enrolment certificate.

6.6. Sir, I am aware that many professionals could not avail of the benefit of the amnesty scheme in profession tax. To give such professionals another chance, I propose to introduce a new scheme of enrolment and registration upon payment of only Rs.1,000 to Rs. 2,000 with no interest and no penalty.

6.7. Sir, to further simplify VAT registration, I propose to introduce automatic registration of a dealer upon filing of online application. I also propose to do away with the provision of requirement of proof of submission of sale invoices of minimum Rs. 50,000 for applying for VAT registration.

6.8. Sir, in order to boost the manufacturing sector in our State, I propose to allow input tax credit on old plant and machinery used for manufacturing goods.

6.9. I propose to extend the benefit of pre-assessment refund to all dealers having accumulated input tax credit on account of inter-State sales. This will provide immense relief to the manufacturers of the State.

6.10. For the dealers of North Bengal, I propose to constitute a bench of the Appellate & Revisional Board at Siliguri, thus obviating the need to travel to Kolkata for filing appeals and hearings.

6.11. To provide better services to the big tax-paying dealers, I propose to introduce a Large Taxpayer Unit. There will be a single nodal officer for most of the services and for statutory compliance with regard to VAT, Sales Tax, CST, Profession Tax, Entry Tax.

6.12. Delay in refund from Commercial Taxes Directorate is a major concern for the trade. To expedite the refund, I propose to completely do away with pre-verification visit of the Sales Tax officials to the dealers place before grant of pre-assessment refund.

6.13. Sir, there are complaints from the trade regarding random and unauthorised visit by the Sales Tax officials. To make the system transparent, I propose that no Sales Tax official posted at the Charge Office shall visit any registered dealer without a written instruction from the concerned Charge Officer showing the reason for the visit.

6.14. Sir, to strengthen anti evasion measures, I propose to merge the Range offices and Central Section (Preventive) with the Bureau of Investigation and its Zones.

6.15. Given this Government's focus on the employment generation through growth of micro and small scale enterprises, I propose to extend the benefit of Industrial Promotion Assistance till 31st March, 2015.

6.16. Sir, e-stamping in property registration will be introduced in all 246 registration offices in the next financial year.

6.17. Sir, at present an additional 1% stamp duty is charged on all properties whose market value exceeds Rs.25 lakhs. I propose to implement with immediate effect the upward revision of this from Rs.25 lakhs to Rs.30 lakhs. Property owners will now have to pay stamp duty of 6% on all properties of market value upto Rs. 30 lakhs instead of 7%.

6.18. Sir, at present interest @ 2% per month is charged on delayed payment of deficit stamp duty with no upper limit. I propose to reduce this rate from 2% to 1% per month with an upper limit of Rs.20,000.

6.19. Sir, the people have to create further mortgage of house for taking second loan for repair. The second mortgage requires payment of stamp duty of 4 per cent with no upper limit. I propose to restrict the stamp duty on second mortgage to a maximum of Rs. 1.00 lakh.

6.20. In order to facilitate the growth of tea industry and help its workers, I propose to exempt the payment of Rural Employment and Education Cess in the next financial year.

6.21. Sir, in the interest of the women folk of our state, I propose to provide relief on some items related to them. I propose to reduce tax from 14.5% to 5% on sanitary napkins with MRP upto Rs. 25, hair bands and hair clips and also on gas stove including LPG stove costing not more than Rs. 1000/-.

7

Conclusion

Honourable Speaker Sir and the Honourable Members of this August House, to meet the plan commitments of 2014-15, I propose to provide Rs. 30847.31 Crore for the State Plan Outlay as compared to previous year's Outlay of Rs. 26674. This is a whopping 15.65 percent increase over the last year.

Once again, we take up the challenge of generating more resources. The target for the State's Own Tax collection for 2014-15 has been kept at Rs. 45413.96 crore.

The deficit for the next year is estimated at Rs. 9 Crore.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I will like to conclude with the memorable lines of the great Bengali poet D. L. Roy to show the resolve of the Government led by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to work tirelessly & selflessly for the renaissance of Bengal despite all odds.

“কিসের দুঃখ কিসের দৈন্য
কিসের লজ্জা কিসের ক্লেশ
সপ্ত কোটি মিলিত কণ্ঠে
ডাকে যখন আমার দেশ।”

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2014-2015

WEST BENGAL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2014–2015

(In crores of Rupees)

	Actuals, 2012–2013	Budget, 2013–2014	Revised, 2013–2014	Budget, 2014–2015
Receipts				
1. Opening Balance	(-)791.49	(-)2.00	405.32	(-)7.00
2. Revenue Receipts	68295.75	88403.28	81134.45	105978.20
3. Receipts from Debt Heads—				
(i) Public Debt	41478.04	48845.54	56063.80	58569.89
(ii) Loans	279.83	161.27	293.83	308.51
4. Receipts from Contingency Fund and Public Account	276028.71	205732.66	227521.43	230766.88
Total	385290.84	343140.75	365418.83	395616.48
Expenditure				
5. Revenue Expenditure	82110.88	91891.77	93203.67	105978.20
6. Capital Expenditure	4547.30	9318.59	9233.44	15120.67
7. Expenditure on Debt Heads—				
(i) Public Debt	23328.48	28826.82	35940.15	35437.26
(ii) Loans	1064.03	768.46	883.96	477.39
8. Expenditure on Contingency Fund and Public Account	273834.83	212343.11	226164.61	238611.96
9. Closing Balance	405.32	(-)8.00	(-)7.00	(-)9.00
Total	385290.84	343140.75	365418.83	395616.48

(In crores of Rupees)

	Actuals, 2012-2013	Budget, 2013-2014	Revised, 2013-2014	Budget, 2014-2015
Net Results—				
Surplus (+)				
Deficit (-)				
(a) On Revenue Account	(-)13815.13	(-)3488.49	(-)12069.22	0
(b) Outside Revenue Account	15011.94	3482.49	11656.90	(-)2.00
(c) Net, excluding Opening Balance	1196.81	(-)6.00	(-)412.32	(-)2.00
(d) Net, including Opening Balance	405.32	(-)8.00	(-)7.00	(-)9.00
(e) Expenditure for New Programmes/Additional Outlays/Additional Dearness Allowance				
(i) On Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(ii) Outside Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(f) Expenditure for Additional Outlays				
(i) On Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(ii) Outside Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(g) Additional Resource Mobilisation under Tax Revenue	..	..	..	..
(h) Net Revenue Deficit	(-)13815.13	(-)3488.49	(-)12069.22	0
(i) Net Surplus/Deficit	405.32	(-)8.00	(-)7.00	(-)9.00