

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

With your permission I lay the 2017-18 Annual Financial Statement before this August House.

1

The people of Bengal have again reposed their faith in the Government of Maa, Mati, Manush, led by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Smt. Mamata Banerjee. Inspired by the trust and faith of the people we were continuing with the development at a fast pace. Suddenly, people of West Bengal and rest of India were shattered with the blow of demonetisation.

There is no example in the history of the world when 86 percent of the currency has been demonetised in one go in any democratic country. A few countries where this has been tried in the past were all under dictatorial regime.

You are all aware that Hon'ble Chief Minister was the first in the country to oppose the move of demonetisation and she vehemently denounced demonetisation. She said that this foolhardy decision will cripple the life of common people and the economy of the nation. She urged the Central Government to immediately roll back the decision of demonetisation.

Today we can see that the country's GDP in 2015-16 is on the decline. As per the assessment of the national and international economists, the GDP growth will decline by 1 percent to 3.5 percent, that means the country's total financial loss may be Rs. 1.5 lakh crores to Rs. 3.25 lakh crores. Therefore, it can be said that we are passing through a financial and political emergency.

The adverse effect of demonetisation is now amply reflected on the employment and life of the common people. Due to the tsunami of demonetisation by the Central Government, lives of lakhs of unorganised workers in small and micro businesses and dreams of farmers now lie shattered. In our State it has very badly affected lakhs of workers engaged in the tea gardens, jute industries, leather industries, textile, handicrafts as well as Self Help Groups. This disaster has not only affected Bengal but the trade and industry of the entire country.

Surprisingly, the narrative for reason of demonetisation has changed over a period of time. From attack on black money to fake currency, then cashless economy, after that less-cash economy and lastly creating conducive environment for GST. The goal post was changed with every passing day. We are still in dark about the real intention behind this arbitrary decision. History will only tell one day about the people who have benefitted from the demonetisation.

It is a matter of great concern that the interference of the Government has greatly diminished the standing of India's most glorious autonomous institutions like RBI. The autonomy of the Reserve Bank of India has been totally curbed and the faith of the common people in the banking institutions of the country has reached its nadir. Not only this, weakening of the federal structure of the country is hidden in the demonetisation.

‘দোস্তি সে
কাম হো সকতা হ্যায় যো
উও জবরদস্তি সে
হো সকতা নহি’।

Debt trap

The people of Bengal and this Government is facing a very serious problem firstly due to the impact of autocratic decision of demonetisation by the Central Government and secondly the huge debt burden left over by the previous Left Government.

You will be shocked to learn about the debt burden. The loan which was taken 10 years back by the Left Front Government in 2006-2007 has now matured for repayment. In 2016-17, the total burden for principal repayment and interest would be of the tune of Rs. 40,000 crores. In 2017-18 this would increase to more than Rs. 47,000 crores.

Even under these most adverse circumstances, the social and economic development of the State is on the rise. We may be poor but our determination is unshaken.

‘জিতে জিতে লড়না শিখো
হাসতে হাসতে কাম করনা শিখো
চলতে চলতে আগে বড়তে চলো
জিন্দগি কি রাহ মে।’

2

Macro economic situation: blow of demonetisation

The Government of India predicted that in 2016-17 India’s economic growth will reduce to 7.1 percent due to demonetisation. I have already informed you earlier that the economists predict that the situation may be even worse. The rate of growth in our State also may be restricted to 9.27 percent due to this demonetisation.

It is also apprehended by the economists that it will take two to three years to bring the economy back to the pre-demonetisation state. The primary reason for this is the ruining of the entire supply chain and unemployment of crores of workers who have come back to their villages.

It is encouraging to note that in 2016-17, before demonetisation, for period from April, 2016 to September, 2016 in the State Index of Industrial Production (IIP) the

growth was to (+)4.8 percent as compared to (-)0.1 percent of the country. In other words, while the industrial growth in the country even before demonetisation was in shambles, we were doing reasonably well in the State.

The economic growth to some extent is dependent on the State Plan funding and the Capital Expenditure of the State. You will be happy to know that as compared to 2010-11, the State Plan of Expenditure in 2016-17 is expected to be four times. Similarly, the Capital Expenditure in 2016-17 as compared to 2010-11 is expected to be seven times.

In the midst of the crisis created by demonetisation the Central Government has placed its Budget. Hon'ble Chief Minister has dubbed this Budget as insensitive, directionless, inhuman with no road map and no more than an empty voice. Negligence and statistical jugglery towards the citizens of India is hidden behind this Budget. It will take an entire day to go into the details of this.

3

Developmental projects

In spite of the unfavourable environment arising due to demonetisation, this Maa, Mati, Manush Government is moving ahead with a positive approach and a large number of people-friendly schemes like Kanyashree, Sabujshree,

Sabuj Sathi, Khadya Sathi, Maa Bhoi, Swasthya Sathi, Nijo Griho Nijo Bhumi scheme, Gitanjali, Jal Dharo Jal Bharo, Lok Prasar Prakalpa, Baitarani, Samabyathi, Gatidhara, Swami Vivekananda Scholarship, Shikshashree Prakalpa for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students, Scholarship for Minority students, loan and different developmental schemes, etc.

The above schemes are dealt in detail in other parts of the speech.

4

New Proposals

4.1 Sir, Anganwadi workers and helpers are the backbone of the Integrated Child Development Scheme which plays a pivotal role in providing health and nutrition service to pregnant mothers, lactating mothers and children. During the last few years, the State Government has consistently increased the financial support to these workers and helpers. Hon'ble Chief Minister has recently brought all the Anganwadi workers and helpers under the comprehensive health insurance 'Swasthya Sathi'.

I am happy to inform the House that under the inspiration of Hon'ble Chief Minister and in recognition of the services of these workers and helpers, I propose to increase the monthly honorarium by Rs. 500. With this step more than 2 lakh Anganwadi workers and helpers will be benefitted. This is a small effort to help them.

4.2 Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Asha workers play a very important role in taking health care to the grass roots. This Government had earlier increased the honorarium of these workers and very recently Hon'ble Chief Minister has brought all these workers under the comprehensive health insurance scheme of 'Swasthya Sathi'. Under the inspiration of Hon'ble Chief Minister and to support these workers, I propose to increase their monthly honorarium by Rs. 500. This will benefit around 50,000 Asha workers. This is also a small effort to help such workers.

4.3 Demonetisation has forced thousands of skilled workers from different parts of the country to come back to the State. These workers are presently living in pitiable condition. Under the inspiration of Hon'ble Chief Minister and to stand by these workers in their hour of distress, I propose to provide one time grant of Rs. 50,000 to 50,000 such workers to enable them to start an alternative business and stand on their own feet. I propose to allocate Rs. 250 crores in this Budget for this purpose.

4.4 Sir, you are aware that due to demonetisation a large section of our farmers have been badly affected as they could not procure agricultural inputs like fertilisers, seeds, etc. in time. The cooperative credit, on which the large section of our farmers are dependant, had completely paralysed due to demonetisation. Under the inspiration of Hon'ble Chief Minister, I propose to create a special assistance fund of Rs. 100 crores to mitigate the sufferings of these farmers.

With permission of the Hon'ble Speaker, I would like to place the achievements and State Plan allocation of major departments in Part 4 of the Speech which may be considered as read. Sir, with your permission, I now directly go to the reforms in tax administration (Page 43 to Page 48, Part 6) of my speech and conclude.

5

Achievements of Major Departments and State Plan Allocation for 2017-18

5.1 Agriculture and Agricultural Marketing Department

The State has been awarded 'Krishi Karman Award' by Government of India in 2016, consecutively for 4th year in a row.

Under the programme "Universalization of Soil Health Card for the farmers" 13 lakh Soil Health Cards (SHC) have been distributed till end of November, 2016 and expected to distribute 22 lakh SHC by March 2017.

"Bangla Fasal Bima Yojana" has been successfully and timely implemented in kharif 2016 and the farmers will not have to pay premium for this. The State Government has taken the responsibility of paying the entire farmers' share of premium. The coverage under Bima Yojana has gone up from 10.09 lakh farmers in kharif 2015 to 32.40 lakh farmers in kharif, 2016.

165 Krishak Bazars have been completed till date and they are being operationalised for optimum utilisation of assets. 149 of Krishak Bazars are presently being utilised as Paddy Procurement Centre. Another 24 nos. of Krishak Bazars will be completed in FY 2016-17.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1970.20 Crore to Agriculture Department and Rs. 300 Crore to Agricultural Marketing Department for the next financial year.

5.2 Food & Supplies Department

Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal launched the "Khadya Sathi" programme with the objective to give universal food security to the people of the State. Overall the State has brought more than 7.9 crore people under coverage of subsidised foodgrains under this scheme and the beneficiaries have been provided with digital ration cards.

The beneficiaries under the Special Package in remote and poorest areas such as Jangal Mahal and 7 blocks in Birbhum, Aila affected, hill areas of the Darjeeling, farmers of Singur are getting additional quantity over and above the normal allocation. More than 63,000 persons belonging to primitive tribes are also getting 35 kg. food grains per persons per month free of cost.

Over the last 5 years (2011-16) storage capacity was enhanced to 5.22 LMT and is currently constructing another 2.86 LMT capacity. Besides, paddy storage godowns of 1.64 LMT at 164 Krishak Bazars are being utilized.

I propose to allocate Rs. 270.30 Crore to the Food and Supplies Department for the next financial year.

5.3 Food Processing Industries & Horticulture Department

During this financial year, the State achieved the target of 3,130 hectare under perennial and non-perennial fruits cultivation, 585 hectare under flower cultivation, 350 hectare under hybrid vegetable cultivation and 234.9 hectare under spices cultivation.

The pilot scheme of 'Area Expansion of Kharif Onion Programme' succeeded in bringing 600 hectare area under onion cultivation till November, 2016.

Eighty nos. of power tillers were distributed among the horticultural farmers.

18 nos. of Farmer Producer Company (FPCs) are formed and 10 nos. of FPCs are in formation state.

I propose to allocate Rs. 160.23 Crore to the Food Processing Industries and Horticulture Department for the next financial year.

5.4 Animal Resource Development

A new Veterinary & Fishery College is being set up at Moynaguri of Jalpaiguri District.

A new Bull Mother Farm has been started with 100 cows at State Livestock Farm, Kalyani with a total project cost of Rs.6.13 crore.

A new Black Bengal Goat Farm has been started at Haringhata, Nadia with capacity of 500 goats.

New floating fish feed Plant has been established at Kalyani, Nadia with a production capacity of 1.5 MT per hour and restructuring of Feed Plant of Salboni, Kalyani & Siliguri at a project cost of Rs. 12 crore.

The HIMUL programme has been revived in North Bengal. Mother Dairy Calcutta has been entrusted to operate Matigara Dairy Plant of HIMUL. Within a very short span of time, the plant is now processing about 15000 Ltr. of milk per day for supplying to the people of North Bengal.

Construction of a Modern Chicken & Pork Processing Plant has been started at Phansidewa block of Darjeeling district with a production capacity of 8 MT Chicken & 8MT Pork per day.

I propose to allocate Rs. 535.41 Crore to the Animal Resource Development Department for the next financial year.

5.5 Fisheries Department

Fisheries sector continues to play a vital role in the livelihood aspect of the rural population of the State. Production of fish has increased from 14.72 lakh tones to about 16 lakh tones during 2016. 'Jal Dharo Jal Bharo' programme of the State Government has made a significant positive impact on pisciculture in the State. Nearly 1.5 lakh water bodies have been created surpassing the target under this programme and the same are being utilized for fish rearing and for production of big fish.

With the aim to produce big sized fish an initiative have been taken in 200 nos. of big water bodies during this year.

Renovation of Dal Gangil Beel at Lalgola, Murshidabad with provision of 20 nos. of tanks involving fund of Rs. 2189.89 lakh have been completed. Construction of road from Balanaga to Uladanga in Mouza Gamal Mati, Murshidabad involving fund of Rs. 183.22 lakh and improvement of Naviagability of Dubda Canal with Bay of Bengal, Block-Egra-II in the District of Purba Medinipur involving fund of Rs. 1569.89 lakh has been completed.

I propose to allocate Rs. 276.86 Crore to the Fisheries Department for the next financial year.

5.6 Panchayat and Rural Development Department

Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the State Government has achieved employment generation to the tune of 128% of proportionate labour budget. Expenditure incurred by the State Government in the scheme of more than Rs. 5600 crores was the highest in the country.

Under Gramin Awas Yojana, the State Government till date has approved release of around Rs.2036.34 crore. Already 2,82,837 houses have been sanctioned during this year.

During the financial year 2016-17 (from April to December) an amount of Rs.522 crore has been spent and 446.985 KM road length has been constructed under Gramin Sadak Yojana.

Under Mission Nirmal Bangla, the State Government has initiated a massive campaign for public awareness on sanitation & hygiene to declare Open Defecation Free status to the districts of Cooch Behar, South 24 Parganas and Burdwan by the end of 2016-17 financial year. Already the districts of Nadia, North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur and Hooghly and 16220 villages have been declared Open Defecation Free zone. Till date 16.49 lakh toilets have been constructed for a healthier and hygienic environment.

I propose to allocate Rs. 12,864.64 Crore to the Panchayat and Rural Development Department for the next financial year.

5.7 Irrigation & Waterways Department

During the last five years, the State Government has been able to bring around 3,23,000 acre of land under irrigation, strengthened flood protective embankments and implemented anti-erosion works for 2337 kms., completed resuscitation of drainage channel of a total length of 931 km and completed 161 road bridges over various rivers, irrigation and drainage channels.

As many as 70 check dams have been completed in Purulia District under 'Jalathirtha' and other programmes in 2016-17 and 18 more (11 in Purulia and 7 in Bankura) are on-going.

I propose to allocate Rs. 2,410 Crore to the Irrigation and Waterways Department for the next financial year.

5.8 Forest Department

Online booking facilities for 20 Eco-Tourism centres have been introduced. 41 Eco Tourism centres have been upgraded for providing improved facility during FY 2016-17. Four new Eco-Tourism facilities, three in Darjeeling and one in Purulia has also been taken up.

Hon'ble Chief Minister has also initiated a new programme "Sabujshree" with the slogan "Ekta Janma, Ekta Gaachh", to increase the green cover of the state through plantation of about 15 lakh seedlings each year. Under the scheme, a sapling of high economic value will be gifted to each child born anywhere in the state at the time of birth, effective from 27th May, 2016. In the initial phase, 15 lakhs beneficiary births have been identified.

A new wildlife sanctuary, Pakhi Bitan, was notified at Gajoldoba in North Bengal for conserving the habitat and protecting populations of migratory birds.

I propose to allocate Rs. 347.65 Crore to the Forest Department for the next financial year.

5.9 Water Resource Investigation & Development Department

During 2016-17, irrigation potential of about 70,000 Hectare by Minor Irrigation Installations is expected to be created.

During 2016-17, 32,416 water bodies/water detention structures have been created. Since 31st May, 2011, 1,89,954 water bodies/water retention structures have been created/renovated under Jal Dharo Jal Bharo Abhiyans on 31st December, 2016.

Under the World Bank assisted West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP) 179 schemes have been completed.

Steps have been taken towards enhancing water use efficiency by promoting micro-irrigation schemes like drip & sprinkler irrigation. 174 nos solar operated sprinklers, tubewells, pump dugwells etc. have been commissioned in 2016-17 in 1,034 Ha. area.

I propose to allocate Rs. 763 Crore to the Water Resource Investigation and Development Department for the next financial year.

5.10 Health & Family Welfare Department

The State Government in order to implement the free treatment Policy of the Government offering by withdrawing all kinds of user Charges for all sorts of investigations, medicine & beds from all Government facilities, has increased budget allocation from Rs.403 Crores in 2015-16 to Rs.757.39 Crores in 2016-17.

Department has initiated a process of setting up of 13 Mother and Child Hubs (MCH). The MCH located at Uluberia SDH, Murshidabad MCH and Nadia DH have been made functional; the remaining 6 MCHs located at Bankura Sanmilani MCH, Medinipur MCH, Jalpaiguri DH, MJN Coochbehar, Malda MCH and Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata will be made functional within this year.

To provide comprehensive neonatal care, 303 Sick New Born Stabilization Unit (SNSU) have been made operational. The New Born Care Corners (NBCC) have been made functional at 472 Delivery Points.

Three new Waiting Huts have been set up for pregnant mothers in remote areas of Sunderbans.

Due to sustained effort of the State Government in improving the health infrastructure through its various programmes, noticeable improvements have been observed in health parameters of the State. During the last five years, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has been reduced from 32 to 26 and Institutional Delivery in health centres and hospitals has increased from 65% to 90%.

Three new Medical Colleges have been constructed at Malda, Murshidabad and Kamarhati at a Project Cost of about Rs. 400 crore. The intake capacity has been increased by 100 MBBS students per year.

Another 5 new Government run Medical Colleges at Cooch Behar, Raigunj, Purulia, Rampurhat, and Diamond Harbour are coming up by upgrading the district hospitals, thereby adding 500 more MBBS seats.

Upgradation works towards infrastructure development for enhancement of 100 MBBS seats in two medical colleges viz. Calcutta National Medical College from 150 to 200 MBBS seats and Midnapore Medical College from 100 to 150 MBBS seats has also been undertaken.

About 42 Critical Care Units (CCU) and 30 High Dependency Units (HDU) are being set up in different Government Hospitals across the State so that patients do not have to rush to Kolkata and other big cities in any emergency. 58 such units (37 CCUs and 21 HDUs) have already started functioning.

112 Fair Price Medicine Shops (FPMS) are functional and 7 are expected to be made operational in phases. The gross sale of the FPMS has shown a rising trend over the years and till December 2016, the total sales has been Rs. 1331 crores and patients availed discounts worth Rs. 829 crores with 2.93 crores prescriptions being served from these facilities.

Fair Price Diagnostic Centers and Dialysis Services have been set up at 46 State Run Facilities across the State, in PPP Mode to provide diagnostic services at affordable cost. 85 such units (33 dialysis, 12 CT Scan, 4 MRI & 36 Digital X-Ray) are already functional under PPP mode at a much lower cost than market rates.

A Comprehensive Group Health Insurance Scheme named “Swasthya Sathi” has been introduced at a cost of Rs. 1363.72 crores.

Members of Self Help Groups, ICDS Workers, ASHA Workers, Civic Volunteers Force, Civil Defence Volunteers, contractual employees etc. have been brought under the

Scheme. It has also been decided by Hon'ble Chief Minister that college/university teacher and non-teaching staff and members of gram panchayats and their permanent and temporary staffs will also be covered under the scheme.

I propose to allocate Rs. 3,299 Crore to the Health and Family Welfare Department for the next financial year.

5.11 School Education Department

Total 135 nos. of schools have been upgraded from Upper Primary to High & High to Higher Secondary. 14 new Primary and 21 new Upper Primary have so far been sanctioned.

199 nos. of new set up Primary and 71 nos. of new set up Upper primary schools have been constructed. 2265 nos. additional class rooms have been constructed.

School shoes have been distributed to 51,19,553 Primary Students.

Under Mid-Day-Meal Programme, 73.46 lakh Students covered in the Primary schools and 48.80 lakh Students covered in Upper Primary schools. Construction of 350 Kitchen sheds and 959 nos. Dining Halls for Mid-Day Meal programme have been completed.

Construction of 28 Model schools have been completed.

The process of filling up of 42,949 vacancies of Assistant Teachers at Primary level, and 14,088 at

Upper Primary level is in advanced stage. The process of filling up of 10,233 vacancies at Secondary level and 6,299 vacancies at Higher Secondary level has been started.

I propose to allocate Rs. 9,660 Crore to the School Education Department for the next financial year.

5.12 Higher Education, Science & Technology and Bio-technology Department

Since 2011, 15 new universities and 46 new colleges have come up in the State.

The Government Engineering Colleges at Coochbehar and Purulia and the Ekbalpur General Degree College for Girls will be made functional from the academic session 2016-17.

The retirement age of college and university teachers has been increased from 60 years to 62 year by the State Government.

As a result of the significant increase in public spending in higher education, the State's Gross Enrolment Ratio has risen dramatically to 17.5 from 12.6 in 2011.

To bring the benefits of the internet to education, the Government has begun setting up virtual classrooms in all higher education institutions, for which a special allocation of Rs.100 crore has been made. A scheme is underway to provide free internet access to all students in designated areas of all State-funded colleges and universities.

To help support meritorious students from socially and economically backward sections of society, the budgetary allocation for the Swami Vivekananda Merit cum Means Scholarship Scheme has been raised from Rs.40 crore last year to Rs. 200 crore in 2016-17.

Under the West Bengal Higher Education Institutions (Reservation in Admissions) Act 2013, during 2015-16, 99,310 OBC students were admitted into the UG and PG level courses (15% of all admissions).

I propose to allocate Rs. 575.24 Crore to the Higher Education, Science & Technology and Bio-technology Department for the next financial year.

5.13 Technical Education, Training and Skill Development Department

‘Utkarsh Bangla’ has been launched with an aim to skill 12 lakh people in two years. Construction of 78 new Government ITIs having intake capacity of 28,600 has already been completed and 71 of those have been operationalized by Private Training Providers in PPP mode. 52 more ITIs having intake capacity of 10,920 are under different stages of construction.

10 new Government Polytechnics and 01(one) Government Sponsored Polytechnic were operationalized in 2016. WIFI connectivity has been done in 47 Polytechnics.

I propose to allocate Rs. 781 Crore to the Technical Education, Training and Skill Development Department for the next financial year.

5.14 Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare

Since inception, under 'Kanyashree' scheme, applications from 35,63,992 girls have been received and 34,13,861 applications have been sanctioned.

I propose to allocate Rs. 4,633.24 Crore to the Woman and Child Development and Social Welfare Department for the next financial year.

5.15 Labour Department

New enrolment of 1,80,870 unorganized workers have been done during 2016-2017, under State Assisted Scheme of Provident Fund For Unorganised Workers (SASPFUW). Total number of beneficiaries under the scheme is expected to become 62 lakh at the end of 2016-2017.

The number of new enrolments of construction workers under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Act (BOCWWA) is 94,133 during 2016-2017 (upto October, 2016). During this period benefits to the tune of Rs.72.64 crore have been disbursed to 91,876 beneficiaries.

In order to create more job opportunities in government service for our youth, the State government has taken significant initiatives. The upper age limit for recruitment to Gr. A posts has been raised from 32 years to 36 years and for Gr. B posts from 32 to 39 years. The upper age limit for SC ST candidates will be 41 years for Gr. A posts and 44 years for Gr. B posts. Similarly, for OBC candidates, the upper age limit will be 39 years for Gr. A posts and 42 years for Gr. B posts.

'Yuvasree' scheme was launched to extend financial assistance of Rs.1,500 per month to 1 lakh job-seekers enrolled under the Employment Bank. So far, 99,104 job-seekers are getting this financial assistance.

B. Sc. Nursing college with 40 seats is being set up at a cost of Rs.8.71 crore at Asansol ESI Hospital Campus.

I propose to allocate Rs. 330 Crore to the Labour Department for the next financial year.

5.16 Youth Services and Sports Department

Construction, renovation & upgradation works have been taken up for various stadiums and sports academies such as Jhargram Archery Academy and 80 other sports infrastructures at districts and sub-divisional level.

Modernisation work has been taken up at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) for ensuing U-17 FIFA World-cup, 2017.

Biswa Bangla Krirangan (Sports Village) at Jalpaiguri has been transferred to Sports Authority of India for overall development of sports activities in the area.

The renovation work of the 15 old youth hostels has been completed and operational. Construction of 25 new hostels have been started.

Thousands of youth from the districts of Darjeeling, Jalpiaguri and Alipurduar took part in football, archery, volleyball and martial arts competitions under the Himal Terai Dooars Sports Festivals. The State Government had introduced this festival to encourage sports and games in the area and unlock the potential in such games.

For setting up of Multigym, financial assistance of Rs.3.00 lakh has been given to Schools/Colleges/Universities.

I propose to allocate Rs. 476.65 Crore to the Youth Services and Sports Department for the next financial year.

5.17 Information Technology and Electronics Department

Out of the eighteen (18) new IT Parks being set up in the State, eleven (11) located at Durgapur (Phase-II), Siliguri (Phase-II), Kharagpur, Asansol, Bolpur, Haldia, Howrah, Kalyani, Rajarhat, Barjora and Purulia have already been operationalized. Other IT parks viz., Taratala, Bantala, Krishnanagar, Malda, Coochbehar, Belur and Siliguri (Phase-III) are at different stages of progress.

The State Portal & State Service Delivery Gateway (SP/SSDG) is also operational providing single access point to the citizen for relevant information and availing e-services. Online Single Window Clearance System (OSWiCS) riding on SSDG platform was launched by Hon'ble CM on 16th February, 2016, which provides 11 online services for Statutory Clearances and 5 online services related to Registration for Incentives for large industries.

The State Data Centre is in the process of being upgraded and augmented.

I propose to allocate Rs. 200 Crore to the Information Technology and Electronics Department for the next financial year.

5.18 Disaster Management and Civil Defence Department

50 Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter (MPCS) are being constructed at cost of Rs.138.65 crores of which 20 Shelters in North 24 Pgs., 15 Shelters each in South 24 Pgs. and Purba Medinipur are being constructed.

25 Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters are being constructed at a cost of Rs.105.39 crores under Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) in the five coastal blocks of South 24 Parganas under this World Bank assisted Project.

Under National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (Phase-II) 150 nos. of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters are being constructed in the three coastal districts of West Bengal, viz; North 24 Parganas (45 Shelters), South 24 Parganas (75 Shelters) & Purba Medinipur (30 Shelters) and the work for underground cabling of 135 Km HT & 215 Km LT electrical networks in Sankarpur-Digha area of Purba Medinipur with the aid of the World Bank is in progress.

During 2016-17, a total sum of Rs. 516.93 Crore has been released under State Disaster Relief Fund till date.

I propose to allocate Rs. 173 Crore to the Disaster Management and Civil Defence Department for the next financial year.

5.19 Public Health Engineering Department

Total 60 nos. of PWSS have been commissioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 236.90 crores during this financial year 2016-17 upto December, 2016. Moreover presently 475 nos. of piped water supply schemes are ongoing throughout West Bengal with an estimated cost of nearly Rs.8,085.04 Crores.

Surface Water based Water Supply Scheme for Kulpi & adjoining Mouzas at an estimated cost of 1,332.41 Crores is under implementation in the District of South 24 Parganas.

Bally-Jagachha Surface Water Based Project has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.150.68 Crores in Phase-I and Rs.45.88 crores in Phase-II.

The work of Surface Water Based Water Supply Scheme for Panskura-II Block based on River Rupnarayan at a cost of Rs.241.72 Crores has started.

77 piped water supply schemes have been completed by the State Government during the year. Under these schemes, more than 7.5 lakh people will be benefited. The unique concept of 'Water ATM' has become very popular in the State and 206 such Water ATMS have already been installed in the schools.

A new surface water supply scheme at Habra Gaighata of District North 24 Pgs., has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.578.94 crores.

In addition, for water supply in Bankura district (Phase-II), Haroa, Rajarhat & Bhangar-II blocks of district North & South 24 Pgs., Nandakumar, Chandipur, Nandigram I & II Block of Purba Midnapore district Rs.2,232.12 Crores has been sanctioned.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,811.80 Crore to the Public Health Engineering Department for the next financial year.

5.20 Transport Department

e-vahan has been introduced for e-registration of vehicles, online payment of taxes and providing other electronic services.

255 new buses have been added to the fleet. CNG buses have been initiated in a pilot mode in Durgapur-Asansol area.

‘Safe Drive Save Life’ as a programme has picked up tremendous momentum towards greater road safety and unprecedented quantum of fund has been allotted for traffic equipment, road furniture, road engineering and CCTV cameras to monitor traffic situation on congested locations. A special corpus fund has been created (initially with Rupees Fifty Crores) for road safety works program and campaign.

Emphasis has been placed on safety on rivers. 23 jetties have been constructed and renovated with a total expenditure of Rs.28.51 crores during 2016-17.

I propose to allocate Rs. 552 Crore to the Transport Department for the next financial year.

5.21 Public Works and Public Works (Roads) Department

In the current year widening of approx. 495 km road length and strengthening of approx. 1189 km road length have already been completed. Further about 422 km widening and 546 km strengthening are likely to be completed within this financial year. Also during this year 3 no of bridges have already been completed and 12 more bridges are likely to be completed by this financial year.

During the year 2016-2017, the Department has already completed 15 nos of Helipads.

Changrabandha Mathabhanga Cooch Behar Road 93.40 kmp. widening & strengthening from intermediate lane to standard 2 lane highway has been completed at a project cost of Rs. 204.69 Cr.

Strengthening of Ramjibanpur Palita Palitpur Natunhat Road (Futisanko to Natunhat), (SH-6) has been completed at a project cost of Rs. 68.37 Cr.

Bridge over river Kaljani near Balarampur including link road at 22nd Kmp of Dinjata - Balarampur - Chilakhana road (including balance work) has been completed at a project cost of Rs. 33.99 Cr.

A new scheme named 'Baitarani' has been undertaken to renovate the cremation ghats of the Hindus.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,030 Crore to the Public Works Department and Rs. 1,923.14 Crore to Public Works (Roads) Department for the next financial year.

5.22 Power & NES Department

Under 'Sabar Ghare Alo', out of 12 districts taken up, electrification works have been completed in 9 districts, namely Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Birbhum, Bankura, Purba Medinipur & Paschim Medinipur. Work for Purulia & Murshidabad districts will be completed by February, 2017 and that of

South 24 Parganas in March, 2017. 15.88 lakhs service connections have been provided till December 2016.

As a result, quality power will be ensured and the problem of low voltage will also be taken care of.

Service connection to 24,885 BPL households & 2.54 lakh APL households in 5525 villages have been effected till November 2016.

Electrification work of 14 nos. un-electrified villages in 3 (three) blocks viz. Pathar Pratima, Gosaba and Namkhana of Sundarban area and intensification of 59 nos. partially electrified villages have been taken-up.

A new program has been started under 'Sech Bandhu' for access to power for all households as well as to improve the overall distribution infrastructure for 24×7 power supply in rural areas of West Bengal. Execution of work for 20 nos new 33/11 KV Sub-Stations have been started.

A 10 MW Solar PV Project at the bank of Mahananda Main Canal (MMC) has been commissioned and 50 MU power has been generated till date.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,590 Crore to the Power and NES Department for the next financial year.

5.23 Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department

Under 'Nijo Griha Nijo Bhumi' scheme for construction of houses for the urban poor belonging to the

Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of the society, till date approval has been accorded for construction of 1.22 lakh dwelling units.

27 water supply schemes with a total Project cost of more than Rs. 2000 crore have already been sanctioned for 26 towns including Kolkata, Howrah, Bidhannagar and Asansol Municipal Corporations. Work has already started in 10 towns.

For Water Drainage projects Rs. 300 crore have been sanctioned. Steps have been taken for sanction of further 6 Sewerage and Drainage projects in 6 Towns with a project cost of Rs. 255.60 crore.

Under Special BRGF Grant, out of 6 towns sanctioned for Water Supply Scheme, so far Water Supply Schemes at 4 towns viz. Purulia, Raghunathpur, Sonamukhi & Bishnupur have been completed so far.

State Government has recently formulated a new scheme, namely, Samabyathi, in order to provide financial support to the very poor families for performing the last rites (burial/cremation) at the rate of Rs. 2000/- in each case.

Three Development Authorities, viz., Bakreswar Development Authority, Patharchapuri Development Authority and Mukutmanipur Development Authority have been created.

Schemes for Rs.140.00 crores have been planned under Green City Mission.

I propose to allocate Rs. 5,783.90 Crore to the Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department for the next financial year.

5.24 Housing Department

Under 'Gitanjali' scheme, assistance has been provided to 2 lakh 93 thousand shelter less families so far.

"Pathasathi" is being constructed on National Highways, State Highways and other important roads for the benefit of travellers specially for the women. Construction of 67 nos. have been completed.

Three Night Shelters, one at Medical College, Kolkata, another at district hospital, Diamond Harbour and another one at Baruipur Sub Divisional Hospital have been constructed for Patient Parties.

I propose to allocate Rs. 920 Crore to the Housing Department for the next financial year.

5.25 Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department

107.40 Lakh students belonging to Minority Communities have received scholarship worth Rs.2,350 crore since 2011, which is an all time record. The number of beneficiaries for the current fiscal year has been pegged at 26.6 lakhs.

4.99 lakh unemployed youths belonging to Minority Communities has been disbursed loans amounting to Rs. 880 crore since 2011. The number of beneficiaries for the current fiscal year has been pegged at 1.36 lakh.

Construction work for 407 hostels has been taken up which will benefit about 28,000 students.

The State Government has launched a new scheme at the rate of Rs.1000 only per student per month for 10 (ten) months a year per students staying in Madrasah/School Attached hostels.

192 Marketing Hubs (Karmatirthas) are being set up for providing self employment and marketing facilities to farmers and artisans.

An amount of Rs. 517 crore has been released for construction of Aliah University at New Town & Park Circus Campus. Out of these, two campuses are fully operational now. The Girls Hostel at New Town Campus is also functional.

The construction of more than 3000 boundary walls of Public Graveyards at a cost of Rs. 231 crore have been taken up in the last 5 years out of which Rs. 100 crore has been earmarked in 2016-17.

The State Government is in the process of constructing Sadbhav Mandap (Community Halls) one each in all 151 Minority Concentrated Blocks of the State at a total cost of 105 crore @ Rs. 70 lakh each.

“The West Bengal Pahari Minorities Development Board” has been established with an objective to a more focussed development of minorities in the Hill Region.

I propose to allocate Rs. 2,815.65 Crore to the Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department for the next financial year.

5.26 Backward Classes and Tribal Development Department

Under the scholarship scheme ‘Sikshashree’ introduced during 2014-2015, Scholarship was disbursed to 13.26 lakh SC and 2.40 lakh ST students respectively for which fund of Rs.100.00 crore & Rs.20.02 Crore were utilized respectively.

Old Age Pension has been provided to 1,49,327 ST beneficiaries @ Rs.1,000/- per month in rural areas under the scheme during 2016-2017.

Special Recruitment Drive to remove shortfall in the percentage of SC/ST employees in Govt. jobs was taken up. In the first phase 4,142 SC and 943 ST vacancies were filled up.

Special Recruitment Drive is also being taken for another 6,099 SC and 1,736 ST backlog vacancies for Special Recruitment of SC and ST beneficiaries.

A new Social Security Scheme for Kendu Leaves’ Collectors of Tribal Development Department was

introduced in which more than 34 thousand Tribal Kendu Leaves collectors have so far been registered.

In Phase-I (2015-16), 24,86,720 Bi-cycles have been distributed under Sabuj Sathi Scheme among all the students of Class-X, XI, XII and girl students of Class IX in a few districts.

In phase-II (2016-17) 7,54,549 Bi-cycles have been distributed under Sabuj Sathi Scheme among students of Class-IX of academic year 2015. Remaining Bi-cycles are scheduled to be distributed by February, 2017.

Twelve (12) Development and Cultural Boards have been set up under the BCW and TD Department for overall development of the different communities of the Board.

The State Government has released Rs. 300 crores for various development work of such development boards in North Bengal.

I propose to allocate Rs. 625.35 Crore to the Backward Class Welfare Department and Rs. 741.31 Crore to Tribal Development Department for the next financial year.

5.27 Self Help Group and Self Employment Department

Under Swami Vivekananda Swanirbhar Karmasansthan Prakaalpa (SVSKP) subsidy involving Rs. 195 crores has been provided to 16,956 entrepreneurs upto November, 2016.

Till November, 2016, interest subsidy has been disbursed for Rs. 44.80 crores benefiting 2,67,805 SHGs.

During the current financial year 2016-17, Rs. 8.86 crore has been released for implementation of this Project in 7 new districts namely Howrah, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad & Burdwan.

I propose to allocate Rs. 545.35 Crore to the Self Help Group and Self Employment Department for the next financial year.

5.28 North Bengal Development Department

241 new projects have been taken for execution during the current financial year. There are 291 additional spillover projects from the previous financial year, most of which are in final stage of completion.

Necessary steps have been taken to provide night landing facility at Bagdogra Airport.

The State Government programme celebrating birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is being held in Darjeeling district with much enthusiasm every year. The 'Uttarabanga Utsav' is also being celebrated in 7 districts of North Bengal in a big way.

The work of extensive renovation of Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Bhawan at Mungpoo, Darjeeling has been taken up.

The construction work of Electric Crematorium at Balurghat has been completed.

Construction work of the Polytechnic College at Mathabhanga, Coochbehar and the construction work of the Agricultural College at Majihan, Dakshin Dianjpur has started.

A new Tea Directorate has been established under North Bengal Development Department for taking care of workers of tea gardens of North Bengal.

Construction of Fair Price Shops run by Self Help Groups in closed Tea Gardens spread over Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts has also been taken up.

I propose to allocate Rs. 575.65 Crore to the North Bengal Development Department for the next financial year.

5.29 Sundarban Affairs Department

To provide better infrastructure and connectivity in the remote areas of the Sundarbans, construction of 216 K.M. of roads and R.C.C. jetties were completed. Works also started for construction of 7 bridges.

To encourage sports in the Sundarbans, Canning Sports Complex has been constructed in Canning-I block with an expenditure of Rs.1108.20 Lakhs with a seating capacity of 3200.

I propose to allocate Rs. 444.75 Crore to the Sunderban Affairs Department for the next financial year.

5.30 Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs Department

The construction of 9 approach roads to Ramgarh Polytechnic, Girls' Hostel at Lalgargh, Krishnabandh integrated School, Nayagram College, ITI at Salboni, ITI at Khatra, Salboni College, Gopiballavpur Model School, Mirga Integrated School have been completed.

For all round development of Jangal Mahal, all schemes under the Jangal Mahal Package announced by Hon'ble Chief Minister have been completed. Such schemes include construction of roads and bridges, Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres, housing, minor irrigation etc.

Construction of Black Top Roads in Ayodhya Hills in Purulia District was completed at a cost of Rs. 9.83 crore. 540 solar street lights covering 108 hamlets in Ayodhya Hills have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 1.56 Crore.

Papatpur Bridge over the river Tarafeni and Bhairab Banki junction at a cost of over Rs. 25 Crore at Binpur-I Block is under construction. Asui to Suliapata road Construction at cost of over Rs.12.5 Crore has also been taken up.

Kalaikunda – Salua Road Construction at a cost of Rs.8.2 Crore and Kalseuli – Malancha (KGP) Road under

Jhargram Block at a cost of Rs.5.97 Crore have been taken up. The construction of Lalgarh-Dherua Road – 14 KM in Paschim Medinipur District at a cost of Rs.14.30 Cr. have been taken up.

21 check dams under ‘Jaltirtha’ project are completed in Jangal Mahal at a cost of Rs. 16.37 Cr. and 42 check dams in Purulia and Paschim Medinipur District at a cost of Rs. 41.30 Cr. are being constructed under Jaltirtha.

I propose to allocate Rs. 390 Crore to the Paschimanchal Unnayan Department for the next financial year.

5.31 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises & Textiles Department

9 private parks have been accorded in-principle approval under Scheme of Approved Industrial Park (SAIP) involving around 530 acres of land.

There are more than 37 lakh medium and small enterprises in the State. Credit flow to the MSME sector in the State has significantly increased in the last five years and has reached nearly Rs.1.2 lakh crores.

Construction work has started in 4 parks and work for 9 parks out of 13 textiles parks has been taken covering 524 acres of land under TexPro launched in 2015-16.

Three more SYNERGY events at Purba Medinipur, Purulia and Birbhum have been organized during 2016 calendar year.

I propose to allocate Rs. 754 Crore to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises & Textiles Department for the next financial year.

5.32 Large Industries & Enterprises Department

Business from across India and 29 Countries participated in the Bengal Global Business Summit was held on 20-21 January, 2017. Investment proposals for Rs. 2 lakh 35 thousand 290 crores have been received in major sectors like urban development, infrastructure development, IT, manufacturing industries etc.

The State Government has proposed to set up a sea port at Tajpur of Purba Medinipur to enhance the transport facilities in the area.

WBIDC Ltd. has completed a number of Industrial Parks, named Rishi Bankim Shilpa Udyan at Naihati in North 24-Parganas, Food Park (Phase-III) at Sankrail in Howrah, Vidyasagar Industrial Park at Kharagpur in Paschim Medinipur, Plasto Steel Park at Barjora, Bankura.

An industrial cluster in Raghunathpur, Purulia, spread over 2650 acres has also been earmarked for inclusion in the Amritsar – Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC).

New Industrial Parks are being developed at Haringhata Industrial Park (300 acres) in Nadia district, Goaltore Industrial Park is being (950 acres) in Paschim Medinipur district, Garment Park (9.5 acres) in Budge Budge which will create 750,000 square feet of modular space at a cost of Rs.200 crore.

Multi-product Industrial Park is being developed on around 300 acres in Haldia. Gems & Jewellery Park at Ankurhati, Howrah will become operational soon. The Park is being developed on around 6 acres for about Rs. 55 crore.

Permission has been granted to JSW Cement Ltd. for setting up a Cement Grinding Plant at Salboni on an area of about 130 acres with a projected investment of Rs. 500 Cr. approximately.

Construction of three warehouses at Changrabandha International Truck Terminus in the District of Coochbehar and Immigration Check Post/Land Customs Station project at Fulbari, Jalpaiguri has been taken up.

I propose to allocate Rs. 865.40 Crore to the Large Industries & Enterprises Department for the next financial year.

5.33 Tourism Department

West Bengal Incentive Scheme – 2015 and West Bengal Tourism Policy - 2016 have become operational during the year.

New Tourist Accommodation has been made available in Jhargram Rajbari Tourist Complex in Paschim Medinipur, Tilabari in Jalpaiguri District, Ajodhya Hill, Garpanchokot and Khariberi in Purulia.

Several ongoing major infrastructure developmental projects have been funded. Some major projects are Reconstruction of existing Tourist Lodge Complex near Tiger Hill Darjeeling, Night shelter at Kachuberia , development of Tinchuley Homestay Project , Construction of two storied guest house at Samduragarh, Infrastrutural facilities at Mathabhanga of Purulia , Piped water supply of Bakkhali Frezerganj Tourist Destination etc.

Some new projects that have been taken up are construction of Banquet Hall at Pathik Motel, addition and alternation work at Udyachal Tourist Lodge, upgradation work of Darjeeling Tourist Lodge, construction of 5 nos of cottages annexed to the Maithon Tourist Lodge and construction of a new block at Bakkhali Tourist Lodge.

I propose to allocate Rs. 335.75 Crore to the Tourism Department for the next financial year.

5.34 Information and Cultural Affairs Department

Nearly 80 thousand folk artists have been registered under the 'Lok Prasar Prakalpa' and are receiving monthly allowances. Rural handicrafts are able to reach the market through the Biswa Bangla stores and crafts hubs.

I propose to allocate Rs. 330 Crore to the Information and Cultural Affairs Department for the next financial year.

6

6.1 Reforms in tax administration

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, in the last six years we have introduced far-reaching citizen centric reforms in tax administration with main objective of simplification through online process and e-taxation. These reforms have been very successful. As a result, the revenue of the State in 2015-16 as compared to 2010-11, has grown by 103 percent. This increase is unprecedented in the country.

In the area of e-taxation and reforms, this Government of Maa, Mati, Manush has achieved number one position in the country on the basis of comparative valuation of performance with other states. These reforms show the Government's commitment towards complete transparency and responsibility.

6.2 Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Sir, I will like to inform this August House that this Government, keeping in mind the interest of the common people and small businessmen, has all along in principle supported GST. You are also aware that under Article 279A of the Constitution, a GST Council has been constituted in which all Finance Ministers of the states are the members. Keeping in mind the interest of the people of the State, we have accorded priority to four issues in the Council.

First, common people should benefit under the GST.

Second, smaller businesses should benefit under the GST.

Third, in case of revenue loss to the State under GST, the Central Government should provide adequate compensation to the State.

Fourth, the fiscal autonomy of the State as enshrined in the Indian Federation should not be diluted in anyway.

Sir, you will be happy to know that we have forcefully placed the stand of the State Government on GST in the GST Council meetings and I am proud to inform the House that after consultation with Hon'ble Chief Minister, the GST Council has accepted our views. On many occasions, we are the only one to take up the cause of the states and the cause of the common people and small businesses, but finally we came out victorious.

6.3 Settlement of Dispute Scheme - Relief

During the last five-six years, we have successfully reduced the tax related disputes pending in different courts by introducing Settlement of Disputes schemes and First Track Courts.

In December 2016, we have again introduced a new attractive settlement scheme which was to end on 31st January, 2017. In view of a very positive response for the scheme from big, medium and small businesses, I have extended the scheme upto 31st March, 2017.

6.4 Threshold under VAT – relief to small businesses

In order to give relief to the small businesses, in 2015 we increased the threshold for payment of tax in one go from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh.

Sir, as a result of demonetisation the small businesses and start ups have been very badly affected. In order to give them relief during this time of distress, I propose to increase the threshold from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.

6.5 VAT Registration

We had earlier made the entire process of VAT Registration online – a remarkable achievement in the country. Despite this a small section of dealers still have to submit hard copies of the registration documents in the VAT offices. I propose to completely dispense with the requirement of submitting hard copies of registration documents to the VAT offices. This will greatly help small businesses.

6.6 Submission of separate audit report

Sir, in order to help small businesses we have gradually increased the threshold of annual turnover for submission of audit reports by the Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant from Rs. 3 crores in 2011 to Rs. 10 crores in 2015.

I propose to completely abolish the provision of submission of separate VAT audit report. Instead the

dealers may submit the income audit report which will be accepted as a VAT audit report as other purposes. As a result of this, more than 30,000 small businesses will be benefitted from this financial year.

6.7 VAT Refund

In order to facilitate early refund, we have introduced simplification and transparency in our VAT refund process. Despite this it is observed that there are still old refund cases pending in the VAT offices which have not been disposed.

I propose that all pending refund cases will have to be disposed of and enclosed between 31st December 2017.

6.8 Composition scheme

Presently, only traders with annual turnover to less than Rs. 50 lakh are covered under the Composition Scheme in which there is a nominal VAT liability.

I propose to bring small manufacturers whose annual turnover is less than Rs. 50 lakh under the Composition scheme. As a result these manufacturers will have to pay only a nominal tax. 33,000 small manufacturers will be benefitted from this measure.

6.9 New VAT offices

Hon'ble Members, new business and trading centres have come up in different parts of the States. In the

absence of VAT office at such locations, the business community has to face problems. With the interest of such businesses in mind, I propose to set up four new offices in Alipurduar, Digha, Rajarhat and Kasba.

I also propose to bifurcate the existing Charge Office into two for the benefit of the businesses located in Siliguri.

6.10 Tax relief

Sir, in my earlier Budgets, through tax relief and removal of discrepancies in tax rate in different commodities, we had reduced tax rates on different commodities. I propose to exempt some environment-friendly items like Bio-diesel, Bio-mass Bricket, Solar water heater, plates and cups made up of Saal leaf, tiles of terracotta, etc. I also propose to exempt some items for common use like kerosene stove, hair band and hair clip, etc.

6.11 Cess on tea

Sir, I propose to extend the exemption on payment of primary education and rural employment cess on tea for a further period of one year upto 31st March 2018.

6.12 Stamp Duty and Registration

Hon'ble Members, I propose to reduce the Stamp Duty on Agreement to Sale from the present rate of 5 to 7 percent to 2 percent. In order to get the benefit of the reduced rate, the registration has to be done within a period of 4 years from the date of agreement on payment of the balance stamp duty. This facility of agreement to sale has also been extended to the members of the family.

I also propose to reduce the rate of Stamp Duty on a few transactions of stock exchanges, like proprietary accounts, currency, interest and debt security and bond.

I also propose to reduce the rate of registration fee on all by 9 percent. It will benefit all registrant public.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, you are aware that many times the traders of flat or apartments delay the registration of property. I propose to incentivise early registration of such properties by reducing the registration fee by 20 percent if the registration is done within one year from the date of completion of property.

Conclusion

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I am happy to inform this August House that in spite of adverse impact of demonetisation, we are marching ahead confidently under the strong leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and I propose to provide Rs. 64,733 Crore for the State Plan Outlay during the Financial Year 2017-18.

Sir, the Hon'ble Members of this August House are aware that the primary objective of this Ma Mati Manush Government is to create employment. In spite of the tsunami of demonetisation, till now we are able to create 13,27,000 employment during the Financial Year 2016-17.

Sir, I want to conclude my speech with an extraordinary verse of Kabi Guru Rabindranath:

‘নমোনমো নম সুন্দরী মম জননী বঙ্গভূমি!
গঙ্গার তীর স্নিগ্ধ সমীর, জীবন জুড়ালে তুমি।’

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2017-2018

WEST BENGAL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2017–2018

(In crores of Rupees)

	Actuals, 2015–2016	Budget, 2016–2017	Revised, 2016–2017	Budget, 2017–2018
Receipts				
1. Opening Balance	(–)326.43	(–)5.00	205.84	(–)2.00
2. Revenue Receipts	109732.20	129530.33	129340.23	142644.44
3. Capital Receipts	653.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4. Receipts from Debt Heads—				
(i) Public Debt	46050.54	67755.52	64470.50	78916.63
(ii) Loans	832.35	486.53	782.18	804.49
5. Receipt from Contingency Fund and Public Account	441495.13	357658.60	460387.93	484018.25
Total	598436.79	555425.98	655186.68	706381.81
Expenditure				
6. Revenue Expenditure	118827.26	129530.33	138809.50	142644.44
7. Capital Expenditure	12420.17	19189.80	15219.26	19183.90
8. Expenditure on Debt Heads—				
(i) Public Debt	20482.25	40672.40	40904.40	49496.86
(ii) Loans	860.81	652.06	1429.43	971.71
9. Expenditure on Contingency Fund and Public Account	445640.46	365389.39	458826.09	494091.90
10. Closing Balance	205.84	(–)8.00	(–)2.00	(–)7.00
Total	598436.79	555425.98	655186.68	706381.81

(In crores of Rupees)

	Actuals, 2015-2016	Budget, 2016-2017	Revised, 2016-2017	Budget, 2017-2018
Net Results—				
Surplus (+)				
Deficit (–)				
(a) On Revenue Account	(–)9095.06	0	(–)9469.27	0
(b) Outside Revenue Account	9627.33	(–)3.00	9261.43	(–)5.00
(c) Net, excluding Opening Balance	532.27	(–)3.00	(–)207.84	(–)5.00
(d) Net, including Opening Balance	(–)205.84	(–)8.00	(–)2.00	(–)7.00
(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	(–)9095.06	0	(–)9469.27	0
(i) Net Surplus/Deficit	205.84	(–)8.00	(–)2.00	(–)7.00