

Honourable Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the Annual Financial Statement for the Financial Year 2019-20 to this August House.

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Hon'ble Members, the country is passing through a very difficult time. Along with common people, every institution of the country, be it CBI, ED, RBI, National Statistical Commission, Supreme Court, GST Council and Free Press are under threat.

On the back of the onslaught of demonetisation, the Central Government went ahead with the hasty implementation of GST despite strong objections by the State. Our federal polity has been shaken due to blatant interference by the Central Government in the affairs of the statutory Constitutional Institutions and States.

Even the August Institution like Supreme Court was not spared from this interference. The Governor of RBI had to resign before the completion of his tenure. This is also unprecedented in the history of this nation.

In a similar manner, the Chairman and Member of the National Statistical Commission had to resign because the Central Government was trying to suppress the real unemployment figures.

Now, the cat is out of the bag - people of India now know that 2018 witnessed the highest unemployment growth in last 45 years.

Our beloved leader Ms. Mamata Banerjee has time and again raised her voice protesting and vehemently opposing all such undemocratic and anti-people actions of the Central Government.

The people of India have become fed up with false dreams which come untrue. They are now acutely realizing that all the assurances given to them are only pipe-dreams. The toiling farmers of the country were assured that the income would be doubled. Far from doubling their income, the country is facing severe and unprecedented farm distress. A few thousands of farmers have committed suicide being unable to bear the mounting debt in different parts of the country.

In a situation where farmers in many States are forced to commit suicide, the average income of the farmers has increased three fold from Rs. 91,020 in 2010-11 to Rs. 2,91,000 in 2017-18. This is unprecedented.

The present Central Government during the 2014 election had assured the countrymen that all the black money stashed in secret accounts abroad will be brought back. On the contrary what we witnessed was the flight

of big businesses after defrauding the Indian Banking System of thousands of crores of hard earned money of the general public.

Due to the large scale frauds, the Indian Banking System has become critical as if in Intensive Critical Care Unit (ICCU). Whereas the Non Performing Assets (NPA) in 2014 was Rs. 2,09,840 Cr., it climbed to Rs. 10,36,187 Cr. in 2017-18, which is more than 5 times.

Hon'ble Members, the present Central Government throwing all democratic norms to the winds, presented a Full Budget just before expiry of tenure with an ulterior motive. You are aware of the strong views of our Hon'ble Chief Minister on this.

Speaker Sir, our Hon'ble Chief Minister has stood out against this anti-democratic, fascist and communal Government at the Centre. Her exemplary courage is providing shining and effective leadership to the country.

I want to assure that this Maa, Mati, Manush Government will resist all attempts to vitiate the harmony among different sections of society in the State and will not allow any nefarious design to divide people on the lines of caste, region and religion.

Financial Achievement

Hon'ble Members, when this Government came to power in May 2011, the State's Gross Domestic Product (GSDP) was Rs. 4,74,000 Cr. In 2018-19, the GSDP of the State will touch Rs. 11,55,000 Cr. (AE).

In terms of GSDP growth (AE), West Bengal has attained Number One position in the country.*

In 2017-18, while the country's Industrial Growth is 5.54%, the State's Industrial Growth was 16.29% (AE) – an increase of more than threefold.**

Similarly, West Bengal has shown the path for maintaining a prudent Fiscal Deficit. The Revenue Deficit as percentage of GSDP which was as high as 3.75 in 2010-11 come down to 0.96 in 2017-18. Also, Fiscal Deficit as percentage of GSDP has reduced from a high of 4.24 in 2010-11 to 2.83 in 2017-18.

State Own Tax Revenue

Our own tax collection which was a meagre Rs. 21,128.00 Cr. in 2010-11 has grown to Rs. 57,700.00 Cr. in 2017-18, more than two and a half times increase.

State Plan and Capital Expenditure

From 2011, the State Plan Expenditure of Rs. 3,45,000 Cr. and Capital Expenditure of Rs. 92,000 Cr. has been spent on creation of infrastructure and social assets.

* (GSDP Growth Rate at Current Prices— 2017-18, PE: CSO, Government of India: 28-08-2018)

** (CSO, Government of India: 31-07-2018: PE)

A New Paradigm of Development

Hon'ble Members, under the leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, unprecedented development in the last seven and a half years has touched the lives of every citizen in the State.

The production of food grains has increased from 148.10 lakh MT in 2010-11 to 182.92 lakh MT (advance estimate) in 2017-18.

The total warehousing capacity has been increased from a meagre 63,000 MT in 2011 to 9.16 lakh MT in 2017-18.

The State has already given waiver of 100% Khajna and mutation fee for agricultural land.

Under 'Khadyasathi', subsidized food grains are being given to 8.82 crore beneficiaries.

'Dhaan Din Cheque Nin' Scheme has been introduced to ensure payment of fair price to the farmers.

1 lakh farmers are being provided Agricultural enhanced pension of Rs. 1000.00 per month.

Rs. 1200 Cr. compensation has been disbursed to 32 lakh farmer families affected in the recent floods.

'Bangla Fasal Bima Yojana' covers nearly 24 lakh farmers, with the State Government taking the responsibility of payment of farmers share of 20%

premium. Due to interference of the Central Government, the State Government in the interest of the farmers has now decided to completely fund the scheme from the State Budget and shoulder the responsibility of 20% share of the Central Government.

Under the 'Jal Dharo Jal Bharo' programme during the last seven and a half years, 2,62,000 waterbodies have been created/renovated to provide irrigation facilities.

Due to failure of the Central Government to open bank branches in under-served areas of the State, our Government is opening Banking Outlets of the Cooperative Banks in 2631 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS).

Under Animal Husbandry, an incentive scheme for Commercial Layer Poultry and Poultry Breeding Farm is being implemented. To make West Bengal self-reliant in egg production, a large number of chicks and ducklings are being distributed free of cost.

Under 'Kanyashree Prakalpa', more than 52.5 lakh girls have been covered. The income criteria for Kanyashree has been removed to cover all girls between the age of 13 and 19 of all income groups. Kanyashrees pursuing post graduation in Arts and Commerce Courses are receiving scholarships of Rs. 2000.00 per month while for Science subjects it is Rs. 2500.00 per month. Kanyashree University is going to be set up at Krishnanagar.

Under the 'Rupashree Prakalpa', till 31st December 2018, more than 1,26,000 girls have been given financial assistance with a total disbursement of approximately Rs. 320 Cr.

Under the 'Manobik' Scheme, till now more than 2.35 lakh persons have been benefitted with a total disbursement of Rs. 126.69 Cr.

Hon'ble Members, 42 Super Speciality Hospitals have been set up in the State. Infant Mortality Rate of West Bengal has gone down from 32 (SRS 2011) to 25 (SRS 2016). During the same period, Maternal Mortality Rate has reduced from 113 to 101. Institutional Delivery has increased from 67% to 97.5%. The number of SNSUs has shot up from zero to 307 and the number of SNCUs has impressively gone up from a meagre 6 to 68. We are providing free treatment including free drugs and diagnostic services to all its citizens in Government hospitals. The budget for providing free medicine has increased to Rs. 1231.50 Cr. in 2018. In the last seven and a half years, the Government has set up 10 new Medical Colleges and 27 new Nursing Training Schools.

Under 'Swasthya Sathi' more than 2.5 Cr. individuals have been enrolled for availing health insurance.

During the last seven and a half years, 7000 new Primary/Upper-Primary Schools have been set up and 2700 Schools have been upgraded from Junior High to Secondary and Secondary to Higher Secondary. Since 2011, we have provided free school uniforms to more than 7 crore school children, free school bags to nearly 16 lakh students and shoes to around 50 lakh students.

In the field of Higher Education, the number of Universities in the State has gone up from 12 in 2011 to 40.

The enrolment in Higher Education Institutions has risen from 13.24 lakhs in 2010-11 to 20.36 lakhs in 2017-18.

Hon'ble Members, under the 'Shiksha Shree' Scheme, 70 lakh Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students were provided scholarship.

Under 'Sabooj Sathi', 1 crore bicycles have been sanctioned.

20 Development and Cultural Boards have been constituted for the welfare and development of distinct communities with allotment of around Rs.600.00 Cr. Most notable among the recently formed Boards are 'The West Bengal Namasudra Welfare Board' and 'The West Bengal Matua Welfare Board'. In appreciation of the immense contributions for the Matua Community of Late Harichand Thakur and Late Guruchand Thakur new Harichand Guruchand University has been established at Thakurnagar with an extension campus also at Krishnanagar.

Hon'ble Members, we have taken up construction of 445 hostels, 312 Karmatirthas, Alia University, Minority Bhavans, ITIs, Polytechnics and boundary walls of graveyard. In the last seven and a half years, 2.03 Cr. Scholarships with financial involvement of almost

Rs. 5257 Cr. have been provided to students of the minority community. Rs. 1,300 Cr. was disbursed among 8 lakh entrepreneurs of minority community which is the highest in the country.

In the Rural Employment Programme (MGNREGA), West Bengal achieved the distinction of being Number ONE in the country for the consecutive three years.

Murshidabad and South 24 Parganas, the two top districts in the rural housing sector in the country have won the National Award.

The State also ranks Number ONE in the Sector of Rural Road Connectivity during the last seven and half years by construction or reconstruction of a total road length of 26,000 km.

Under the 'Mission Nirmal Bangla', the State has achieved 99 percent rural household toilet coverage in rural West Bengal.

Till now around 40 lakh urban and rural household have benefited from various housing schemes like 'Gitanjali', 'Nijashree', 'Bangla Awas Yojana', etc.

Under 'Sabujshree', launched with the inspiration of Hon'ble Chief Minister, 24 lakh mothers of newly born children have been distributed seedlings upto 31st December, 2018.

Around 70 lakh poor women have been mobilised into 5.5 lakh credit linked Self Help Groups (SHGs). SHG portfolio has grown from meagre Rs. 674.41 Cr. in 2012-13 to Rs. 8200 Cr. in 2017-18.

Under the Transport Sector, 'Gatidhara' and 'Jaldhara' Schemes have been successfully implemented. 'Safe Drive Save Life' campaign introduced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been very effective and successful in reducing the number of road accidents.

During the last seven and a half years (2011-18), 932 Piped Water Supply Schemes (PWSS) made with expenditure of Rs. 11,739.29 Cr. has covered a population of 2.02 Cr.

In the Power Sector, the household consumers has increased by 122% from 85.65 lakhs in 2011 to 190 lakhs in December 2018.

Under 'Samajik Suraksha Yojana', since 2011, 25.80 lakh workers have been provided benefit with disbursement of Rs. 1324.78 Cr.

Two lakh bereaved families have received one-time assistance under 'Samabyathi' Scheme.

Under 'Baitarni' Scheme, around 20 electric crematorium and 535 cremation ground has been constructed.

Official Language Status has been conferred to Kurukh, Kamtapuri, Rajbanshi and Kurmali languages.

Under the 'Lok Prasar Prakalpa', benefit is presently provided to almost 2 lakh folk artists.

Under the 'West Bengal Pension Scheme for Journalists' pension is being provided to journalists above 60 years of age.

Rani Rasmoni Skywalk at Dakshineshar Temple, built at the cost of Rs. 65.16 Cr. was dedicated to general public.

Major infrastructure projects like floating market at Patuli and flyover between Jinjira Bazar and Batanagar and Budge Budge Trunk Road named Sampriti have been started.

With constant push from the State Government, the number of MSMEs has grown from 36.64 lakh in 2011 to now more than 90 lakh. Due to this massive increase in the number of MSME units, the total capital investment in MSMEs in 2017-18 now stands more than Rs. 55,000 Cr.

Under the visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Bengal Silicon Valley Hub has been established over 200 Acres in Rajarhat. Major IT/ITES Companies have evinced interest in making investment in this Project.

The Bengal Global Business Summit 2018 saw overwhelming participation of investors from India and abroad. A record 32 countries participated in the event. The Summit attracted USD 145.93 Billion worth of business and investment proposals in various Sectors.

The State Government has notified Tajpur as a Deep Sea Port and the preparatory work is already underway.

Flipkart, an e-Commerce Company of international repute, is going to build Flipkart Hub at Haringhata at an investment cost of Rs. 1000 Cr. with employment generation potential of about 10,000 persons.

New Vision

Hon'ble Chief Minister has also announced a major Scheme in the name 'Krishak Bandhu' for the benefit of our farmers. 72 lakh farmers and Bhagchasis of the State owning agriculture land will be given every year an assured grant of Rs. 5,000 upto 1 Acre of land, in two installments. Farmers and Bhagchasis holding less than 1 Acre will be given grant on a proportionate basis depending on the size of the land with minimum grant of Rs. 2,000 every year, in two equal installments of Rs. 1,000 each.

Also, the family will get one time assistance of Rs. 2 lakh on the event of death.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Speaker, I would now directly go to Part 5 at Page 72. The intervening pages may be considered as read.

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Achievements of major Departments and Budget Allocations for 2019-20

Big push to Agriculture and Rural Economy

4.1 Agriculture & Agri-Marketing

Production of cereals, oilseeds & pulses came up to 178.47, 4.44 & 11.33 Lakh MT respectively during 2017-18 against 172.77, 2.76 and 8.94 Lakh MT respectively during 2016-17.

The State Government has given thrust on farm mechanization since 2012-13. During 2018-19, a total amount of Rs.125.81 Cr. is being spent as subsidy to farmers for purchase of equipments, of which Rs. 58.87 Cr. is being utilized for establishment of 380 Custom Hiring Centres.

The State Government is successfully implementing the 'Bangla Fasal Bima Yojana' the entire responsibility of paying farmers' premium is being borne by the State Government. Due to non co-operation of the Central Government, Hon'ble Chief Minister has decided that the entire scheme will be run by the State Government. The State will also shoulder the central share of 20%. During Kharif 2018, 24 lakh farmers have been brought under the scheme.

Under Farmers' Old Age Pension Scheme, from 2018-19 the amount of pension and the beneficiaries have been enhanced from Rs. 750 to Rs.1,000 per month and from 66,000 to 1 Lakh per year, respectively.

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Also, the family will get one time assistance of Rs. 2 lakh on the event of death.

Under 'Sufal Bangla' Scheme now, out of 105 retail outlets, 47 stores are managed by Project Management Unit directly through an operator. Remaining 58 stores are managed by Farmers Producers Companies (FPCs) through their own working capital.

Rs. 1,600 Cr. has been directly credited by the State Government to farmers accounts towards subsidy for machineries and other grants/schemes.

To assist the farmers afflicted by natural calamities e.g. flood, drought and hailstorm, subsidy/grant for compensation for crop damage of Rs. 2,415 Cr. were distributed directly through account payee cheques to 63 lakh families till 2018.

To prevent distress sale and ensure remunerative price realisation for farm produce the Government established 321 Purchase Centres at each 'Krishak Bazar' in most of the Blocks and 2000 camps have been opened.

Thus, over the last 7 years the net income of the farm families of West Bengal has increased more than 3.2 times, from Rs. 91,000 in 2010-11 to Rs. 2,90,000 (excluding cost of cultivation as per NSDP) in 2017-18 while the wages of agri-labour have doubled during the period.

Hon'ble Chief Minister has acknowledged the contribution of the farmers by conferring 'Kriti Krishak' to 4,000 farmers, 'Krishak Ratna' to 2,003 farmers at Block level and 'Krishak Samman' to 361 farmers at the State level.

ICT (Information and Communications Technology) based initiative 'Matir Katha' Portal is providing quick facilities of solving field problems by SMS (Short Messaging Service) in Bengali, Call Centre and different other modules to the farmers.

I propose to allocate Rs. 6,086 Cr. to the Agriculture & Rs. 359 Cr. to the Agri-Marketing Department for the next Financial Year.

4.2 Food Security : Food and Supplies

'Khadyasathi', a flagship Programme of the present Government, is being implemented in the State to provide food security to poor people.

Till date under Khadyasathi 8.82 Cr. persons are receiving subsidised foodgrains.

Severely Acute Malnourished children (SAM) going through rehabilitation from Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) are getting monthly food, free of cost, at 5 kg rice, 2.5 kg wheat/atta, 1 kg masoor dal and 1 kg Bengal gram. This is being done in collaboration with Health & Family Welfare Department.

Fair Price Shop automation through installation of e-POS machines has started in 366 shops with effect from 01.12.18 on Pilot basis and after its successful implementation, the process will be rolled out in all the 20,200 Fair Price Shops.

All people living in Tea Gardens have been brought under Khadyasathi Programme and are being covered through model Fair Price Shops in all Tea Gardens. In the first phase 126 such Fair Price Shops have been constructed. In rest of the Tea Gardens, it will be completed by 2019-20.

I propose to allocate Rs. 8,255 Cr. to the Food & Supplies Department for the next Financial Year.

4.3 Food Processing Industries and Horticulture

During 2018-19, the pilot project under Paschimanchal Development Plan started as a dedicated intervention to establish perennial horticultural fruit orchards. The Horticultural Area Expansion Programme in 2018-19 has brought 2,835 hectare area under perennial fruits and 675 hectare area under vegetable crops.

A pilot programme was also initiated in 2018-19 for expansion of horticultural activities in the 6 districts of North Bengal.

Registration of farmers in West Bengal for the export of fresh horticultural produce to the European Union (EU) countries has been started in West Bengal. In addition, export to countries in the Middle East and South East Asia was facilitated.

During 2018-19, 352 nos. of Poly/Green/Shade Net houses, measuring 200 sq. mts each, were constructed in West Bengal for protected cultivation of high value flowers, vegetables and betel vine.

Total 30 nos. of Farmer Producer Organizations have been constituted and registered for building linkages of farmers.

During 2018-19, 2 nos. of Multipurpose Cold Storages were extended financial support.

Beekeeping activities are being carried out by farmers of the State in rural areas under Integrated Farming System. An initiative for setting up a State level Honey Hub at Deganga, North 24 Parganas has been undertaken.

I propose to allocate Rs. 190 Cr. to the Food Processing Industries & Horticulture Department for the next Financial Year.

4.4 Animal Resources Development

The annual egg production is expected to increase from 760 Cr. in 2017-18 to about 860 Cr. in 2018-19, a 13% increase over the last year primarily attributed to a huge distribution of chicks and ducklings to over 10 lakh beneficiaries.

The implementation of the State Incentive Scheme for Commercial Layer Poultry and Poultry Breeding Farm, 2017 is going on. It is expected that these farms will produce annually about 12 Cr. eggs in 2019.

Introduction of Rs. 2 per litre of milk as incentive on milk procurement price to dairy cooperative members has resulted in increased procurement of milk by over 15% by the State Milk Federation to 2.37 lakh litres of milk per day.

Setting up of modern Chicken and Pork Processing Plant at Phansidewa Block of Darjeeling district with a production capacity of 8 MT Chicken and 8 MT Pork per day at a project cost of Rs. 36.25 Cr. has been completed and will start functioning by the end of this financial year.

New Floating Fish Feed Plant at Kalyani, Nadia with a production capacity of 1.5 MT per day has become functional since April 2018.

Establishment of Mineral Mixture Plant at Kalyani for production of Area Specific Mineral Mixture for animals has already started functioning.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,115 Cr. to the Animal Resources Development Department for the next Financial Year.

4.5 Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources & Fishing Harbours

Activities of the Department are fully geared towards achieving the fish production target of 17.72 lakh MT in 2018-19. Seed production has already exceeded the targeted figure of 21,500 Million.

Special emphasis has been given on 'Social Fisheries'. Schemes like Jal Dharo Jal Bharo, pisciculture in small waterbodies, pisciculture in OCP, etc. are being taken up at a total project cost of Rs. 51.80 Cr. and will be completed by 31st March 2019. During 2018-19, Rs. 11.11 Cr. is being spent on 'Replication of Moyna Model' for production of big fish in 10 districts.

For production of big fish (more than 2 kg) in big water bodies, inputs (fingerlings and formulated fish feed) are being provided to 174 water bodies having minimum area of 1 hectare each with a total fund involvement of Rs. 15.08 Cr. during 2018-19.

Construction of Cold Storages at Gangarampur, Bolpur, Kakdwip Fishing Harbour and Ice Plants at Narayanpur and Frasergunj Fishing Harbour has been completed. Schemes worth Rs. 7.28 Cr. are being taken up under Cold Chain System during 2018-19.

Rs.14.19 Cr. has been spent under 'Tribal Sub Plan' for implementing multifarious development activities like construction of dwelling houses, culture of Singhi, Magur, IMC, etc.

Works for upgradation of 5 Government Fish Farms involving Rs. 3.49 Cr. have commenced.

Agreement has been signed with NOFIMA (Norwegian Institute of Food Fisheries and Aquaculture Research) for captive breeding of Hilsa in confined water bodies.

In collaboration with University of Arizona, USA, a project has been taken up for 'Development of Disease Diagnostic Centre for Shrimp Aquaculture in West Bengal'.

'Re-excavation and Development of Tapan Dighi at Dakshin Dinajpur' has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.51.84 Cr.

An integrated Fisheries Hub with modern laboratory facilities, cold storage, ice plant and auction hall is being developed at Billbally, Swarupnagar, North 24 Parganas at a total project cost of Rs. 32.40 Cr.

2,52,000 biometric identity cards have been distributed so far to the Marine Fishermen.

For augmenting fish production in brackish water sector, various schemes are being implemented with a fund involvement of Rs. 10.52 Cr.

I propose to allocate Rs. 452 Cr. to the Fisheries Department for the next Financial Year.

4.6 Panchayat & Rural Development

In MGNREGA Scheme, West Bengal could establish itself as the highest achiever in the country. In 2017-18, the State could generate as high as 31.25 Cr. person-days, much ahead of any other State in the country. In 2018-19, also the State could maintain its lead with 21.64 Cr. person-days generated by November, 2018, the next State being Andhra Pradesh with 18.46 Cr. person-days.

For rejuvenation of rivers and comprehensive ground water recharge in the rainfed areas in the western part of the State, MGNREGA Scheme has developed a sub-project named Usharmukti in 55 Blocks of 6 districts. Similarly, in the Darjeeling hills, the Springshed Development Programme has been initiated to revive the decaying springs of the hills. The third major comprehensive initiative is Mission Million Dreams where we propose to provide livelihood enhancing assets to 10 lakh women, mostly belonging to the Self Help Groups over a period of 2 years.

Under 'Banglar Awas Yojona' till date, around Rs. 5,867 Cr. could be released against a budget provision of Rs. 1,080 Cr. from this year's budget. 5,76,355 houses have been sanctioned during this year.

During 2018-19, under the Banglar Gramin Sadak Yojana a sum of Rs. 927 Cr. has been spent under this programme till October, 2018 and it is expected that the expenditure during this year will be highest ever.

In 2018-19, a total new road length of 5,750 kms is under different stages of construction. As of now, a total new road length of 1,170 kms has been constructed in 2018-19 and remaining length is under various stages of execution. During this period an amount of Rs. 135 Cr. has been spent on the Maintenance of Rural Roads under Gramin Sadak Yojana.

During 2019-20, the target is to complete the balance work of the first phase of Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-I) of the remaining road length of 3,228 kms.

Under Mission Nirmal Bangla, 5 more districts namely Hooghly, North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, South 24 Parganas and Coochbehar were declared ODF. Malda, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman and Howrah districts are also going to be declared ODF Districts within a very short time. It is expected that the State of West Bengal will achieve ODF Status by 31.03.2019.

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) provides old age pension, widow pension, disability pension, etc. At present, total number of NSAP beneficiaries is 22.28 lakh and beneficiaries are paid through bank/post office accounts.

Under Anandadhara (NRLM), 6,74,472 all-women Self Help Groups have been formed in rural areas of West Bengal and brought under NRLM fold. Till October 2018, a total of 37,353 Upa-Sanghas (Gram Sansad level Federation of SHGs) and 3,266 Sanghas (Gram Panchayat level Federation of SHGs) were formed. 4,44,327 SHGs were credit linked in the State during 2017-18 enabling them to access finance to the tune of Rs. 8,155.97 Cr. During 2018-19, till October, 2,07,175 SHGs were credit linked to the tune of Rs. 4,504.50 Cr. and planned to reach 5,11,874 SHGs with Rs. 12,374.78 Cr. of credit to them. West Bengal received the National Award for outstanding performance in SHG Bank Linkage.

I propose to allocate Rs. 20,422 Cr. to the Panchayat & Rural Development Department for the next Financial Year.

4.7 Irrigation and Waterways

During 2018-19, 30,000 acres of additional land have been brought under irrigation by completion of a cluster of surface irrigation projects. Work on 138 kms length of embankments have been completed in the flood prone areas of North Bengal. 136 kms of drainage channels have also been re-excavated during the year.

For meeting the infrastructure gap in the Irrigation and Flood Management Sector, twelve (12) projects have been identified. Out of these, two (2) projects have been taken up under special infrastructure funding, namely– Rehabilitation and Rejuvenation of 57 Medium & Minor Irrigation Schemes with an aim to stabilise irrigation potential in 24,620 acres of land and replacement of 373 old and dilapidated bridges across irrigation channels and canals.

The World Bank assisted West Bengal Major Irrigation and Flood Management Project would be grounded in 2019-20, after completion of all the procedural formalities.

I propose to allocate Rs. 3,185 Cr. to the Irrigation & Waterways Department for the next Financial Year.

4.8 Water Resources Investigation & Development

During 2018-19, irrigation potential of about 55,000 hectares will be created through various Minor Irrigation Projects under different Programmes.

Under 'Jal Dharo Jal Bharo' during 2018-19, 29,135 water bodies/water detention structures have been created/renovated.

Under 'Jalatirtha' and other Programmes for increasing irrigation coverage and rain water conservation in the arid districts, 448 Minor Irrigation Schemes have already been completed creating irrigation potential of 20,660 hectares. 'Jalatirtha' has also been extended to Sundarban and hilly areas of Darjeeling and Kalimpong Districts for rain water harvesting and surface flow schemes.

Under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), 1,287 Minor Irrigation Schemes have been completed in this year up to December 2018 creating irrigation potential of 25,268 hectares.

Under the World Bank assisted West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP), 134 Schemes have been completed in this year up to December 2018 creating an additional irrigation potential of 3,002 hectares.

In view of the Government's commitment towards improving environment through use of renewable resources, 876 Schemes having irrigation potential of 9,082 hectares have been taken up with solar power as the motive force. Additionally, water use efficiency is being

enhanced by promoting micro-irrigation schemes like sprinkler irrigation. 191 of these schemes are solar operated creating irrigation potential of 2,005 hectares.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,307 Cr. to the Water Resources Investigation & Development Department for the next Financial Year.

4.9 Co-operation Department

With 80 lakhs members in more than 29,000 co-operative societies, this Sector is playing a commendable role in the area of agriculture, marketing, consumers, housing, service sector, etc.

During the year Crop Loan of Rs. 2,364.66 Cr. has been disbursed to 9,33,192 nos. of farmer-members.

Construction of 8 nos. of Storage Godown having total capacity of 11,456 MT involving Rs. 5.03 Cr. has been completed during current fiscal. Construction of another 3 nos. of Storage Godown having total capacity of 4,296 MT involving Rs.1.89 Cr. is likely to be completed during current financial year.

Construction of 25 Rural Godowns with a capacity of 2,500 MT in different co-operatives involving Rs.4.37 Cr. has been completed during the current year.

Construction of 6 Cold Storages having capacity of 49,000 MT involving Rs.67.18 Cr. was taken up during the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 of which construction of 4 Cold Storages has been completed and remaining 2 is expected to be completed within the current financial year.

Construction of 23 nos. of Storage Godown, each having capacity of 10,000 MT, has been sanctioned during current financial year involving Rs. 240 Cr. and is likely to be taken up during 2018-19.

6,646 nos. of new SHGs have been formed raising the progressive number to 2,08,980 and 3,114 nos. of new SHGs have been credit linked raising the progressive number to 1,81,782. Loan to the tune of Rs.356 Cr. has been issued to the SHGs during the current year.

During KMS 2017-18, out of total procurement of 32.23 lakh MT from Kishan Mandis, 20.56 lakh MT paddy was procured through co-operative societies of which BENFED and CONFED procured 5.99 lakh MT.

Under the initiative 'Sufala' Scheme, so far, 30 'Sufala' outlets have been opened by 16 Co-operative Societies across 6 Districts and 81 'Mobile Sufala' units have been introduced across 10 Districts to ensure wider outreach.

Customer Service Points (CSP) are being established in 2,631 PACS with an aim to provide financial services to the rural people particularly in the unbanked areas of the State. So far, 1,720 numbers of PACS have been assisted with Rs. 156 Cr. of loan for the purpose.

Farm Machinery Hubs (Custom Hiring Centre) are being set up in different co-operative societies to increase agricultural yield by farm mechanisation. Against an initial target of 1,000 so far 302 nos. of co-operative societies have been assisted with Rs. 91.60 Cr. for the purpose.

Another initiative has been taken up for empowerment of rural women under the new Scheme 'Income Enhancement Initiative for SHGs through Poultry Farming & Goat Rearing', under which approx. Rs. 31.50 Cr. has already been provided to 25,000 nos. of Self Help Groups for backyard poultry and goat rearing.

I propose to allocate Rs. 424 Cr. to the Co-operation Department for the next Financial Year.

4.10 Forests

To encourage afforestation and ensure survival of plants, 'Sabujshree' Scheme, inspired by the vision of Hon'ble Chief Minister, was launched. Under the Scheme good quality seedlings are distributed to all the newborns in the state at the time of birth. Under this Scheme, till now 24 lakhs mothers of newly born children have been distributed seedlings.

Afforestation, covering 9,508 hectares of Forest area and non-Forest Areas has been achieved till now. Also, more than one crore seedlings have been distributed to the general public and institutions.

West Bengal Forest Development Corporation (WBFDC) has started e-auction for disposal of forest produce. During 2018-19, more than 657 e-auctions have been conducted so far in which approx. 13.43 lakhs poles

and 23,794 Cubic Metres of harvested timber and 87,252 Cubic Metres of firewood were sold for a total sale value of about Rs. 128.60 Cr. 28.24 MT of crude honey has been collected from forests through fringe dwellers in Sundarbans.

43 (Forty three) projects under Jalatirtha have been completed till October, 2018 in the arid areas of Bankura and Purulia Districts of South West Bengal. These projects have created culturable command area of over more than 1700 Hectares.

Under the JICA assisted West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project, Community Infrastructure Development activities, over 600 JFMCs have been initiated in full swing.

The First Phase of Bengal Safari at Siliguri has been completed ahead of targeted time including Tiger and Leopard Safari.

I propose to allocate Rs. 850 Cr. to the Forests Department for the next Financial Year.

Social Infrastructure

4.11 Health & Family Welfare

Budget for 'free treatment for all' has been increased from Rs.296.16 Cr. in 2011-12 to Rs.1,231.52 Cr. in 2018-19.

5 new Government run Medical Colleges are coming up at Coochbehar, Raiganj, Rampurhat, Purulia and Diamond Harbour. 5 more Government Medical Colleges are in the process of being set up at Tamluk, Barasat, Jhargram, Arambag and Uluberia. This will lead to an addition of 1,000 more MBBS seats in the State.

38 Super Specialty Hospitals are fully functional in the State. 1 more SSH at Sreerampur is fully functional now.

Infant Mortality Rate of West Bengal has gone down from 32 in 2011 to 25 per 1000 live births in 2018.

70 SNCUs (Sick Newborn Care Unit) are functional in the State with 2,217 functional beds.

Out of 15 PICUs (Paediatric Intensive Care Units) planned, 12 units are fully functional and remaining 3 units will be functional by September 2019.

100% of the children in the State are fully immunized.

13 Mother and Child Hubs (M&CH) are being set up for ensuring a qualitative and quantitative improvement in Maternal and Child Services at Hospitals with high case load.

With the persistent efforts of State Government, Institutional Delivery has increased from 65% in 2010 to 97.5% in 2018.

High-end Fair Price Diagnostic Centers comprising 92 Diagnostic Units (17 MRI, 36 CT Scan, 39 Digital

X-rays) and 34 Dialysis Units are functional. About 27 lakh patients have received free diagnostic treatment in the Districts since December 2016.

Under the unique health insurance scheme 'Swasthya Sathi' launched by the State Government, entire premium is borne by the State Govt. 53.31 lakh families have been enrolled under the Scheme. 3,38,385 number of patients have availed treatment amounting to Rs. 333.73 Cr. till November, 2018.

In order to provide transparent and affordable health care to the patients seeking private health care facilities State Government has enacted the West Bengal Clinical Establishments (Registration, Regulation and Transparency) Act, 2017 and has constituted the West Bengal Clinical Establishment Regulatory Commission.

In order to reach out to field level functionaries of health services, an initiative namely 'Exchange' has been started wherein senior State Officials visit Districts and hold dialogue with Officials ranging from DM and CMOH down to ASHA.

I propose to allocate Rs. 9,556 Cr. to the Health & Family Welfare Department for the next Financial Year.

4.12 School Education

More than 13 Cr. free text books from Pre-Primary to Class XII were distributed among the students in all Government and Government aided Schools free of cost.

School uniform was provided free of cost to students of Primary and Upper Primary level.

Under Cooked Mid Day Meal Programme, 71.38 lakh Primary School students and 41.66 lakh Upper Primary School students were covered in the State. An amount of Rs. 769.16 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of 268 kitchen sheds and 1375 nos. Dining Halls for Cooked Mid Day Meal Programme have been completed.

Construction of 152 new Schools was completed.

The number of functional Model Schools in the State is now 51.

157 Schools were upgraded to Secondary and Higher Secondary level.

1,513 additional classrooms were constructed adding more learning space to Schools.

Library Grant was sanctioned to 830 Secondary Schools and Laboratory Grant was sanctioned to 748 Higher Secondary Schools.

I propose to allocate Rs. 27,540 Cr. to the School Education Department for the next Financial Year.

4.13 Higher Education

State's Higher Education Sector has witnessed remarkable activities in the last seven and a half years.

As compared to a total of 12 Universities up to 2011, there are now 30 Universities (20 State and 10 Private) in the State. 8 (eight) new State-aided Universities are being set up in the State. The Universities are: Biswa Bangla University at Bolpur, Jhargram University at Jhargram, Rani Rashmoni Green University in Hooghly, Mahatma Gandhi University in Purba Medinipur, Darjeeling Hills University in Mungpoo, Darjeeling, Alipurduar University in Alipurduar, Dakshin Dinajpur University in Balurghat and Murshidabad University in Berhampore, Murshidabad.

In the Financial Year 2018-19, setting up of another two State-aided Universities, namely, Harichand-Guruchand University in North 24 Parganas and Kanyashree University at Krishnanagar in Nadia have been taken up.

Two more Govt. Sponsored Colleges have been set up in Darjeeling District taking the number of Sponsored Colleges to 450, Govt. Colleges to 57 and Govt. Engineering Colleges to 8.

One new Government Engineering College is under construction in Alipurduar District.

Poor and meritorious students pursuing U.G. and P.G. courses are getting benefit of scholarship from the State Govt. under Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme. The budget for the Scheme has been

increased from Rs. 45 Cr. in 2015-16 to Rs. 200 Cr. The financial support has also been extended to full-time Non-NET scholars pursuing M. Phil and Ph.D and the Kanyashree girls pursuing higher studies.

Enrolment in Higher Education Institutions (HEI) has risen from 13.24 lakhs in 2010-11 to 20.36 lakhs in 2017-18. Gross Enrolment Ratio has risen from 12.4 in 2010-11 to 18.70 in 2017-18. The Female Gender Ratio in Higher Education Enrolment in the State has improved from 42% in 2010-11 to 47.3% in 2016-17.

6,000 nos. of Assistant Professors/Librarians and 250 Principals have been appointed for Government/Government Aided Colleges till date since 2013.

All regular teachers of Govt. aided colleges and Universities have been brought under West Bengal Health Scheme for Grant-in-aid College and University Teachers, 2017. Child Care Leave (female teachers) and Paternity Leave (male teachers) have also been introduced.

I propose to allocate Rs. 3,964 Cr. to the Higher Education Department for the next Financial Year.

4.14 Technical Education & Training and Skill Development

Since 2011, 28 new Govt. Polytechnics and one Govt. sponsored Polytechnic have been operationalised bringing the total number of Govt. & Govt. sponsored Polytechnics to 69 compared to 40 as was in 2011.

As on 03/01/19, the Department has imparted training to 5,15,010 persons as against a target of 6,00,000 for the financial year.

One new self-financed Polytechnic has been set-up in the State during this year.

The Department has implemented 'Swasthya Sathi' Scheme for 15,798 teaching and non-teaching persons associated with Vocational Education & Training Programme.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,106 Cr. to the Technical Education & Training and Skill Development Department for the next Financial Year.

4.15 Youth Services and Sports

For upgradation of Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Netaji Indoor Stadium, Swimming Pool at Baruipur and Canning, Kishore Bharati Stadium Rs. 64.71 Cr. has been released in this financial year. Rs. 65 Cr. has been released to Police Authorities for promoting community sports activity as Grants-in-aid for organizing various sports events.

The new Scheme of assistance to various Coaching Camps @ Rs. 1 lakh each throughout West Bengal has been taken up during the Financial Year 2018-19 and 221 Coaching Camps have been assisted.

Mountaineering Expedition, 2018 sponsored by WBMAF was also organized successfully during the year. This year a Male Expedition Group successfully climbed the peak of Mt. Sri Kailash (6,932 mtr.) and a Female Expedition Group successfully climbed the peak of Mt. Jogin (6,111 mtr.).

23 nos. of Youth Hostels with modern amenities have become operational after renovation and new construction. Decision has been taken for construction of another 4 nos. of Youth Hostels and 15 others are near completion.

Financial Assistance has been given to 400 Schools/Colleges/Universities/Organizations for development of playgrounds and developmental works.

Financial Assistance has been given to nearly 3,317 Schools/Colleges/Clubs/Organizations for setting up of Multi-Gyms.

Financial Assistance has been given to about 676 Bodies/Schools/Colleges/Clubs/Organizations for setting up of Mini Indoor Games Complexes.

I propose to allocate Rs. 607 Cr. to the Youth Services & Sports Department for the next Financial Year.

4.16 Information & Cultural Affairs

State Govt. has conferred Official Language Status to the Kurukh, Kamtapuri, Rajbanshi and Kurmali which have been declared as official languages in the areas where the population of those languages speaking people is more than 10% of the total population of that area by way of amendment of the West Bengal Official Language Act, 1961. Now, there are 8 official languages in the State.

To protect and promote the development of local/ vernacular films, the State Government has recently mandated that in every cinema hall, and in at least one screen of every multiplex situated in the State, prime time shows/screening of Bengali films shall be held throughout the year, with at least one show per day for minimum of 120 days during the year.

The benefit of State funded 'Swasthya Sathi' Scheme has been extended to all the Cable TV Operators, Sub-operators, their workers and families covering more than one lakh persons.

State Government has also introduced 'West Bengal Pension Scheme for the Journalists, 2018' for the financially distressed accredited and non-accredited journalists of more than 60 years of age and arranged for payment of monthly pension of Rs. 2,500.

In order to promote cultural heritage of the local inhabitants of Manbhum area, State Government has set up 'Manbhum Cultural Akademi'. Similarly, for the development and promotion of Kamtapuri language, 'Kamtapuri Bhasa Akademi' has also been set up.

Under the 'Lok Prasar Prakalpa', presently more than 1.90 lakh folk artists have been enrolled and the State Government has enhanced the budgetary provision to Rs. 200 Cr.

I propose to allocate Rs. 631 Cr. to the Information & Cultural Affairs Department for the next Financial Year.

Governance

4.17 Home & Hill Affairs Department

The law & order situation in the State continues to remain peaceful. Security scenario has also improved remarkably over the last few years. Confidence of the people of Jangalmahal has been restored by bringing an end to the days of violence under influence of Left Wing Extremism.

The situation in the Darjeeling Hills is peaceful.

For better law & order administration, Government has created two Police Districts bifurcating North 24 Parganas, viz. Barasat Police District and Basirhat Police District at the end of previous financial year. With these new Police Districts, total 7 Police Districts have been created since 2011. Besides, 6 Police Commissionerates have also been created during this period. All these are maintaining law & order with responsibility.

Moreover, 6 new Police Stations under West Bengal Police have been created. These are Narendrapur and Bakultala in Baruipur Police District, Tamna in Purulia, Paikar in Birbhum, Gobardanga in Barasat Police District and Chitpur GRPS under Sealdah GRP. With these new Police Stations, the total number of Police Stations created since 2011 becomes 129 including 48 Women Police Stations.

After formation of the Directorate of Economic Offences, 26 cases have already been initiated against 25 Financial Establishments/Companies in West Bengal.

‘Safe Drive Save Life’ awareness campaign has not only reduced the number of road accidents and injuries but has also greatly improved the outlook of the common people towards road safety measures. In fact the number of accidents, fatalities and injuries has gone down by 12%, 11% and 16% respectively, during 2018 compared to the figures of 2017 in Kolkata City area. In other areas of West Bengal, the occurrence of accidents has been reduced by 14% in 2018 in comparison to the figures of previous year, 2017. For improvement of traffic management, new technologies have been adopted.

During the current financial year (up to December 2018) total 389 new posts have been created for police force, with these the total regular posts created since 2011 stands at 39,969. Moreover, 1,13,614 posts of Civic Police Volunteers and 3,239 posts of Village Police Volunteers have been filled up till date since 2011. They are assisting the Police Personnel to discharge their regular duties.

New building for Regional Forensic Science Laboratory, Jalpaiguri has been inaugurated on 31.10.2018. This Regional Forensic Science Laboratory at Jalpaiguri will report on cases of Toxicology and Biology Sections for the 8 Districts of North Bengal resulting in savings in both cost and time as the samples will not have to be brought to State Forensic Science Laboratory at Kolkata for examination.

I propose to allocate Rs. 9,624 Cr. to the Home & Hill Affairs Department for the next Financial Year.

4.18 Personnel & Administrative Reforms Department

Under e-District, 122 online services have been launched and 23 Districts and 16 Departments have gone online. Number of online transactions has reached 55 lakhs.

All the Secretariats (51 Departments) and some Directorates are now using e-Office. Present number of users is 7,893 and 1,08,834 files have been processed through e-Office.

On the recommendation of West Bengal Gr.D Recruitment Board the State Government has appointed 5,379 unemployed youth in vacant Group 'D' posts in different Departments and offices of the State Government.

In accordance with the provisions of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, the West Bengal Lokayukta (Amendment) Act, 2018 has been enacted and Lokayukta appointed.

Construction of proposed 4 (four) nos. Office-cum-Residential Bungalows for the Additional District Magistrates at Asansol for Paschim Bardhaman District with a project cost of Rs. 5.56 Cr. is undergoing.

Construction of the integrated Administrative Complex with IT & Telecom Infrastructure and residential complex for Purba Medinipur Collectorate at Nimtouri is nearing completion with a project cost of Rs. 120 Cr. (approx.).

I propose to allocate Rs. 157 Cr. to the Personnel & Administrative Reforms Department for the next Financial Year.

4.19 Disaster Management and Civil Defence Department

221 Multi Purpose Cyclone Shelters (MPCS) at a project cost of Rs. 1,039.04 Cr. are being constructed at strategic locations along the coastline of three Districts, namely North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur of West Bengal to reduce the destructive impact of cyclone and related disasters on human life. Now 132 of these MPCSs are under construction.

I propose to allocate Rs. 703 Cr. to the Disaster Management & Civil Defence Department for the next Financial Year.

4.20 Fire & Emergency Services Department

Online System in respect of issuance and renewal of Fire Licence, Fire Safety Recommendation and Fire Safety Certificate, etc. has been started and functioning.

Construction of 3 nos. of new Fire Stations has been completed and they have started functioning.

Construction of 19 nos. of buildings for new Fire Stations and 5 nos. of new buildings for existing Fire Stations is going on. Besides, approval for 10 nos. of new Fire Stations has been accorded.

30 nos. of Water Bowser, 30 nos. of Water Tender (MP), 20 nos. of Water Carrier, 10 nos. of Ammonia Suit, 10 nos. of Floating Pump and some other equipments have been added to strengthen Fire Fighting measures.

Presidential Medal for meritorious service has been awarded to 5 Fire Fighting Officers on the occasion of Republic Day.

I propose to allocate Rs. 377 Cr. to the Fire & Emergency Services Department for the next Financial Year.

4.21 Correctional Administration

Phase-I of new Baruipur Central Correctional Home has been completed. A fund of Rs. 55,14,69,409 has been utilized for the purpose.

The 1st Phase of construction of proposed 02 (two) storied building with 03 (three) storied foundation for accommodation of Officers of Jhargram Special Correctional Home has been completed and a fund of Rs. 40,00,000 has already been used for the purpose.

The e-Prison Suite has been successfully implemented at all Correctional Homes of West Bengal. At present, I.T. peripherals (viz. Computers, Webcams, LAN switches, etc.) have been procured towards implementation of Visitors Management System (VMS) under e-Prison Suite and Rs. 1.74 Cr. has been allotted for this.

I propose to allocate Rs. 303 Cr. to the Correctional Administration Department for the next Financial Year.

Physical Infrastructure

4.22 Drinking Water (PHE)

During the Financial Year 2018-19 so far 79 nos. of Piped Water Supply Schemes have been commissioned benefiting 17.74 lakhs of people at an estimated cost of Rs. 880.87 Cr.

Moreover, presently 509 nos. of Piped Water Supply Schemes are ongoing throughout West Bengal with an estimated cost of nearly Rs. 10,781.77 Cr. to benefit a total population of 1.88 Cr.

To cover the arid western part of West Bengal, especially Purulia and Bankura districts, PHE Department is implementing large Piped Water Supply projects in these areas.

In Bankura district, fluoride affected 14 nos. of Blocks have been covered through Piped Water Supply under Phase- I at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,011.22 Cr.

Surface Water based Water Supply Scheme for Falta, Mathurapur and adjoining Mouzas at an estimated cost of Rs.1,332.41 Cr. is under implementation in the District of South 24 Parganas covering 10 nos. saline Blocks, viz. Kulpi, Diamond Harbour – I/II, Falta, Jaynagar – II, Kultali, Magrahat – I, Mandirbazar, Mathurapur – I/ II.

Bally-Jagachha Surface Water Based Project (Phase – I) is being taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.150.68 Cr. in water quality affected Blocks of Bally-Jagachha areas of Howrah District.

Bally-Jagachha Surface Water Based Project (Phase – II) has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.45.88 Cr.

A Surface Water Based Water Supply Scheme for Panskura-II Block has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 241.72 Cr. to cover 112 mouzas in Purba Medinipur District.

In Habra Gaighata of North 24 Parganas district, a Surface Water based Scheme has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 577.72 Cr.

Piped Water Supply Schemes for Bankura district (Phase-II) covering 8 Blocks namely Mejia, Gangajalghati, Indpur, Taldangra, Joypur, Kotulpur, Patrasayar and Sonamukhi has been sanctioned to benefit a population of 11.03 lakhs.

Surface Water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for Arsenic affected areas of Haroa, Rajarhat & Bhangar II Blocks of North & South 24 Parganas districts to benefit a population of 5.26 lakhs has been taken up.

Similarly, Surface Water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for salinity affected areas of Nandakumar, Chandipur, Nandigram I & II Block of Purba Midnapore district has been sanctioned to benefit a population of 7.82 lakhs.

In Purulia district, Water Supply Project for Purulia (Phase-I) is being implemented with the external funding of JICA, Japan at a sanctioned cost of Rs.1,296.25 Cr. aiming at covering a population of 6.32 lakhs in 5 Blocks of Purulia district namely Arsha, Barabazar, Puncha, Purulia I & Manabazar I and 1.85 lakhs population of Purulia Municipality.

Sub-Surface Water Based Piped Water Supply Scheme for Fluoride affected areas of Gangarampur Block in District Dakshin Dinajpur with an estimated cost of Rs.145.01 Cr. and another Sub Surface Water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for Tapan Block with an estimated cost of Rs.165.50 Cr. have been taken up for implementation.

I propose to allocate Rs. 3,029 Cr. to the Public Health Engineering Department for the next Financial Year.

4.23 Transport

Initiatives for development and modernization of various bus stands/termini throughout the State have been taken up. Some of the notable schemes are development of Jhargram Bus Terminus in Jangalmahal area; Kalipahari Bus Terminus in Paschim Bardhaman; Canning Bus Terminus in South 24 Parganas; Haldia Depot of SBSTC; Islampur Depot of NBSTC and some other Depots of STUs. Construction work of Truck Terminal at Bahadurpur, Krishnanagar in Nadia district has also been taken up.

275 new buses are being inducted in the STUs. Also 20 CNG buses has been introduced in Asansol & Durgapur.

A new initiative has been taken to launch green-transport in the City of Kolkata. Procurement order has been issued for 80 electric buses for this purpose under FAME-India scheme. All those buses are likely to be rolled out in the City of Kolkata by June, 2019.

e-Governance and Intelligent Transport Services like 'PATHADISHA', online ticket booking system, etc. have been introduced.

In 2018-19, construction/renovation of more than 30 jetties/ferry ghats has been undertaken. Some of the notable jetties/ferry ghats which have already been upgraded are Telenipara in Hooghly district, Shyamnagar and Panihati in North 24 Parganas district, Katwa in Purba Bardhaman district, Nabadwip Boral Ghat in Nadia district.

To improve the Water Transport Services, more than 20 steel vessels and more than 14 wooden vessels have been built and placed in different important ferry ghats. Construction work of one RO-RO Vessel has been taken up.

Under 'JALADHARA' Scheme, construction of more than 150 nos. of well designed mechanized boats has been taken up. All those mechanized boats are likely to be placed for operation within June, 2019.

Under 'SAFE DRIVE SAVE LIFE' Programme, more than Rs. 62 Cr. have been allotted in 2018-19 (upto December, 2018) to Police and other Authorities.

Ex-gratia amounts for M.V. accident cases have been enhanced from Rs.50,000 to Rs.2,00,000 in case of accidental death.

Under 'GATIDHARA' Scheme, a self employment programme in the Transport Sector, a target to cover about 10,000 beneficiaries has been fixed during 2018-19.

Scheme namely 'One Time Waiver of Penalty on Tax on Motor Vehicles Scheme' has been introduced. Under this scheme, 100% exemption is allowed on penalty on tax for those motor vehicles which are in default of payment of due tax as on 31.12.2018.

Major repairing work of 2nd Hooghly Bridge by Hooghly River Bridge Commissioners (HRBC) will be taken up in 2019-20.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,613 Cr. to the Transport Department for the next Financial Year.

4.24 Road Infrastructure (PWD)

In the current financial year 2018 -19, PWD has widened and strengthened 319 kms of roads so far (up to 15th January, 2019) up to 2 lane carriageway width (7.00m) and more than 500 kms roads will be widened and strengthened by end of 2018-19. The Department has already widened and strengthened 248 kms roads up to intermediate lane carriageway width (5.50 m) and has targeted to complete 350 kms of road length within this financial year.

PWD has also strengthened 1,403 kms of roads during this year and may achieve strengthening of 1,600 kms in this financial year. Apart from this, PWD has already constructed 9 nos. bridges and rehabilitated 109 nos. bridges/ROBs so far and it is likely that this will be doubled during this financial year.

In the Building Sector, PWD has completed 17 nos. of major Building projects.

Major significant projects completed during 2018–19 include widening and strengthening of Chandrakona-Ghatal Road from 17.80 km to 43 km in Paschim Medinipur district at a cost of Rs. 168.11 Cr., widening and strengthening of 29.106 km Ahmedpur-Kirnahar-Ramjibanpur Road in Birbhum district at a cost of Rs. 77.77 Cr., widening and strengthening of Ramjibanpur-Ketugram-Katwa Road (Futisanko to Jajigram) from 76 km to 102 km in Purba Bardhaman district at a cost of Rs. 72.78 Cr. and widening and strengthening of 18 km Lauhati-Harua Road in North 24 Parganas district at a cost of Rs. 50.45 Cr.

During the financial year 2018–19, PWD has taken up nearly 620 projects amounting to Rs. 9,500 Cr. for widening and strengthening of 270 kms of roads. 5 major special infrastructure projects, namely existing road corridor connecting Mogra on SH 13 in Hooghly district with Barajaguli on NH 34 in Nadia district at a cost of Rs.1,777.77 Cr., construction of bridge over River

Bhagirathi connecting Kalna in Purba Bardhaman and Shantipur in Nadia at a cost of Rs. 1,098.49 Cr., 6 lane elevated connector between Belghoria Expressway and Kalyani Expressway including widening of Kalyani Expressway to 6 lane from Nimta to Muragacha costing Rs. 692.56 Cr., widening and strengthening of Champadanga-Pursura-Arambag Road at a cost of Rs. 512.92 Cr. and Ajoy Bridge near Shibpur at 17.84 km of Muchipara - Shibpur Road costing Rs.163.25 Cr.

PWD has also taken up a programme for construction of 20 (twenty) capacity Passenger Shelters at important junctions of State Highways in every District.

Till date PWD has taken over 443 nos. roads of length around 3,800 kms from different Zilla Parishads/ Municipalities.

I propose to allocate Rs. 5,336 Cr. to the Public Works Department for the next Financial Year.

4.25 Land & Land Reforms

Under the Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) Scheme, 123 Modern Record Rooms have been upgraded during FY 2018-19. Tehsil Data Centres have been made functional in all 346 Blocks.

About 1,281 nos. of Nijo Griha Nijo Bhumi (NGNB) pattas have been distributed in FY 2018-19 up to the month of December, 2018.

In total, 67,915 map sheets out of a total of 68,348 have been digitized and 56,112 map sheets have been integrated with land records up to FY 2018-19.

Delivery of digitally signed certified copy of Record-Of-Rights has started in 344 BL&LRO Offices and through e-District Portal, Government of West Bengal.

Integration of land records and property registration process has been done in 346 Blocks.

The Bonhooghly Housing Project at Baranagar, North 24 Parganas, taken up under PPP Model in the year 2014 in order to rehabilitate the refugee families has been completed in 2017. The project has rehabilitated 540 families who were living in an old dilapidated structure on the site and another 107 nos. families who were residing at Uday Villa, Burma Colony, Kamarhati have also been shifted from Burma Colony and rehabilitated in the new flats at 'Bonirini' at Bonhooghly Housing Project.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,242 Cr. to the Land & Land Reforms and Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation Department for the next Financial Year.

4.26 Power

The work of providing Power to all villages and households under 'Sabar Ghare Alo' is nearing completion.

Now the work has been taken up for strengthening the existing electrical distribution network by construction of 43 nos. of new 33/11 KV Substation of 570 MVA along with capacity augmentation of 106 nos. of existing 33/11 KV Substation.

The family of WBSEDCL consumers has increased to 1.88 Cr. as on 30th November, 2018, with an addition of 10 lakhs in the CFY 2018-19. Total consumers include 31,426 STW connections, 6,468 new industrial connections and 1.85 lakhs new commercial connections.

Works on underground cabling and high voltage distribution system in all major towns and cities across Bengal are in the pipeline.

Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants at Charrah, Santaldihi, Khemasuli, Salboni in addition to Roof Top Solar Power Plant Projects under Aloshee and IPDS with a total capacity of 35 MW has been commissioned. The total generation from Purulia Pump Storage was 1080 MU, 478 MU from Hydel and 26 MU from Solar. The State has also undertaken pre-project works under 5,200 Cr. JICA assisted 1,000 MW Turga Pump Storage Project in Purulia.

To cater to the needs of enhanced base of consumers, construction has been taken up of 2 nos. 220 KV GIS Substations, 6 nos. of 132/33 KV GIS Substations in addition to capacity augmentation of 46 EHV Substations, erection of 48.2 Circuit Kms, 220 KV line and 394.693 Circuit Kms, 132 KV line.

As part of the Aloshee Programme, a total of 10 MW has been installed as Roof Top Grid Connected Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants in all its Thermal Power Stations at Kolaghat, Bandel, Santaldihi, Sagardighi and Bakreswar. Work is in progress for installing the first 5 MW Grid Connected Floating Solar Power PV Plant at Sagardighi.

WBPDCCL has started extraction of coal from Barjora Coal Mines in Birbhum and work is in progress to start extraction in other 6 mines allocated to WBPDCCL.

With a view to popularise renewable energy across a length and breadth of the State, WBREDA has installed Grid connected Roof Top Solar Photovoltaic Plants at 1,000 schools each of capacity 10 KWP during this Financial Year.

I propose to allocate Rs. 2,474 Cr. to the Power & NES Department for the next Financial Year.

4.27 Urban Development and Municipal Affairs

Some of the important schemes undertaken in 2018-19 that have made major impact are Dakhineswar Sky Walk at temple area at a cost of Rs. 65.16 Cr., Floating Market at Patuli at a cost of Rs. 6.76 Cr., Construction of Elevated Road between Jinjira Bazaar and Batanagar on Budge Budge Trunk road, Digha Convention Centre under DSDA at a cost of Rs. 70.62 Cr. Design and Construction of proposed underpass at 2 (Two) locations viz. Narkeldanga Main Road crossing

(Swabhumi) and Beliaghata Crossing at a cost of Rs. 33.59 Cr., West Bound ramp of Maa Flyover at a cost of Rs. 80 Cr., Environmental Friendly Nature Park at Lataguri amounting to Rs. 9.20 Cr. of SJDA and Construction of EWS flats at Gitabitan Township in Bolpur at a cost of Rs. 7.41 Cr. is being constructed.

941 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 411.93 Cr. under the Green City Mission have already been commissioned across the state in 2018-19.

During 2018-19 financial year, construction of 57,580 Dwelling Units for Urban Poor has been completed.

During 2018-19, under Green Space Development programme, 77 projects of construction of new parks and upgradation of existing parks have been completed in 55 Urban Local Bodies.

During 2018-19 beautification work has been initiated for beautification of 9 Hospitals.

63 City Livelihood Centres have been established in 63 ULBs, Shelters for Urban Homeless have been constructed in 10 ULBs and 35 shelters are under construction.

For rehabilitation of street vendors, construction of 3 Market Complexes has been initiated in Berhampore, Krishnanagar and Dubrajpur Municipalities.

Swasthya Sathi scheme has been extended to employees of Urban Local Bodies.

Under Mission Nirmal Bangla (Urban), 70 cities in 6 Districts out of 125 cities of West Bengal have achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and another 52 cities of 17 Districts are likely to be declared as ODF within March 2019. Under this Mission, Integrated Solid Waste Management Projects are being implemented in 29 major cities of West Bengal at an approved cost of Rs. 741 Cr.

Amendment of all four Municipal Acts has been made for exemption of 10% of property tax to senior citizens or widow or deserted woman or a Physically Handicapped person. Full exemption from Property tax for land/building belonging to Government Health Care Organizations and upto 90% exemption from Property tax in respect of well maintained water bodies.

Act has been made for constitution of the West Bengal Municipal Service Commission for recruitment of Municipal employees.

In order to regulate street vending in the municipal areas and also protecting the livelihood of the vendors on road in an effective and meticulous manner, the West Bengal Urban Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Rules, 2018 has been framed. Constitution of Town Vending Committee and framing of scheme for this purpose is under process.

Online system for payment of property tax on the land and building in Municipal cities has been launched

on pilot basis in 24 Urban Local Bodies and gradually it will be extended to other ULBs also. This Department has introduced the various online services for the Citizen/ applicant in Urban Local Bodies as part of Ease of Doing Business through e-District portal like, online approval of Industrial Building Plan, Issuance of Completion Certificate up to Plinth Level, Issuance of Occupancy Certificate of Industrial Building, Online Sanction of Water Connection, Issuance & Renewal of Trade License and Conversion of Trade License.

I propose to allocate Rs. 10,930 Cr. to the Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Department for the next Financial Year.

4.28 Housing

Since the beginning of the scheme GITANJALI till 31/12/18, fund has been released for construction of 3,83,796 dwelling units out of which 3,57,741 units have been completed.

Construction of 13 Night Shelters at (i) J. N. M. Hospital, Kalyani, Nadia (100 seats), (ii) North Bengal Medical College & Hospital (100 seats), (iii) Suri District Hospital, Birbhum (100 seats), (iv) T.S.Jaisawal Hospital, Howrah (50 seats), (v) Uluberia Sub-Divisional Hospital, Howrah (50 seats), (vi) Midnapur Medical College Hospital, Paschim Medinipur (100 seats), (vii) Jalpaiguri District Hospital, Jalpaiguri (100 seats), (viii) Malda District Hospital, Malda (100 seats), (ix) Jhargram District Hospital, Jhargram (100 seats), (x) Barasat District Hospital, North 24 Parganas

(100 seats), (xi) Tamruk District Hospital, Purba Medinipur (100 seats), (xii) Deben Mahato Sadar Hospital, Purulia (100 seats) and (xiii) R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata (100 seats) for the patient parties are in progress. Construction of Working Women Hostels at Malbazar, Jalpaiguri (61 bedded), Banamali Naskar Road, Kolkata (61 bedded), Becharam Chatterjee Road, Kolkata (34 bedded), H. K. Seth Road, Kolkata (76 bedded), and Regent Park, Kolkata (34 bedded) have been completed. 1 more Working Women Hostel at, C. N. Roy Road, Picnic Garden, Kolkata (123 bedded) will be completed during the financial year 2018-19.

Four Rental Housing Estates for Govt. Employees have recently been completed. Another five Rental Housing Estates in various districts of West Bengal will be completed during the financial year 2018-19.

Housing Department is constructing 'Pathasathi' along National Highways, State Highways and other important roads. Total 68 out of 71 Pathasathi have been completed and constructions of 2 (two) Pathasathi are in progress.

Housing Department has formulated an Affordable Housing Scheme, 'NIJASHREE' for the people belonging to LIG and MIG category on public lands. Under this unique scheme the cost of land, offsite infrastructure like water supply, drainage and electricity etc. shall be entirely borne by the State.

In order to protect the interest of consumers in the real estate sector Housing Industry Regulatory Authority

has been established under section 20 of West Bengal Housing Industry Regulation Act, 2017. A web-base application providing end to end services has been made functional.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,300 Cr. to the Housing Department for the next Financial Year.

Empowering the Disadvantaged

4.29 Women and Child Development & Social Welfare

Kanyashree Prakalpa, the state's flagship scheme for the empowerment of adolescent girls is now in its fifth year of implementation, and has covered 55.17 lakh girls. The Scheme's Annual Scholarship for girls has been raised from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000. In addition, the Scheme has expanded its ambit from covering only girls from poor families to including all girls between the ages of 13 and 19 in the state.

Two new social security schemes, namely 'Rupashree Prakalpa' and 'Manabik' Pension Scheme for the Disabled were launched on 1st April 2018. While Rupashree has already covered 1.35 lakh beneficiaries, Manabik has covered over 2.42 lakh beneficiaries.

Under the Integrated Child Protection Services (ICPS), 137 in-country adoptions and 33 inter-country adoptions were finalized in the year; 288 children were restored home, and 52 repatriated.

I propose to allocate Rs. 5,522 Cr. to the Women & Child Development and Social Welfare Department for the next Financial Year.

4.30 Development of Minorities

Rs.448.79 Cr. has been released under Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) in 2018-19.

For educational upliftment, 507 Hostels (Boys: 256, Girls: 251) for Minority Students involving Rs. 521.16 Cr. are being set up of which 334 have been operationalised. Rs.10,000 per annum is being provided to each student residing in these hostels.

With a view to address the developmental deficits in infrastructure in Non-MSDP Blocks, a total sum of Rs. 83.50 Cr. has been released under Integrated Minority Development Programme (IMDP) till date under the Scheme in 31 Blocks of 13 Districts.

Construction work of 312 Karmatirthas (Marketing Hub) for enhancing marketing facilities for Artisans and Cultivators and improving self-employment opportunity for Minority Youth and SHG members has been taken up. Till now 144 Karmatirthas have already been operationalised and the remaining 168 are under various stages of completion and will be made operational by March 2019.

A total sum of Rs. 334.20 Cr. under Pre-Matric, Post-Matric, Merit cum Means, Talent Support Programme, etc. has so far been released to Minority students during the current financial year. Through an extensive campaign a total of 37 lakh applications for Pre and Post Matric Scholarships have been received in this year setting a new national record, replacing our own record.

300 Smart Class Rooms in 150 Madrasahs have been set up this year and ICT in Madrasahs has been established in 169 Madrasahs with a view to introduce e-Learning.

Apart from these schemes, construction works of Aliah University, Minority Bhavan, ITI/Polytechnic, Third Haj House, Boundary Walls for Graveyards, English Medium Madrasahs, etc. and miscellaneous schemes like Loans to Minority students, Vocational/Skill Development Training, Digital Literature for Madrasah Students, Housing for Destitute Women, Promotion of Urdu Language and Literature, etc. have been taken up during this financial year.

I propose to allocate Rs. 4,016 Cr. to the Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education Department for the next Financial Year.

4.31 Backward Classes Welfare and Tribal Development

The State Government has provided 'Sikshashree' Scholarship to around 11 lakhs SC and 2 lakhs ST students of Class V-VIII with an expenditure of around Rs. 83 Cr. and Rs 16 Cr. respectively in the current Financial Year so far. In addition 8.46 lakh SC students have applied for Pre and Post Matric Scholarships having an involvement of Rs. 334.09 Cr.

5.54 lakhs OBC students have applied for Pre-Matric OBC Scholarship which has an involvement of Rs. 83.10 Cr. For Post-Matric Scholarship, application has been made by 3.75 lakh OBC students which has an involvement of Rs. 119.10 Cr. in the current Financial Year.

The rates of the hostel grants have been enhanced from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 per month for all the SC students effective from 2018-19 which has benefitted around 96,000 hostellers this year. Other fees for the Ashram Hostellers has been increased from Rs.1,100 to Rs.1,500 per annum benefitting around 3,000 Ashram Hostellers this financial year.

10 Hostels for OBC students are operational now including three new hostels in Purba Medinipur district. 2 more Hostels are coming up in the Malda district.

Construction of 2 nos. of 'Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School' in Jalpaiguri and North 24 Parganas districts with an estimated cost of Rs. 23 Cr. is at an advanced stage. Both the schools are likely to be made operational in 2019-20.

'Sabooj Sathi' Scheme for distribution of bicycles has been continuing. Under the Scheme, out of 1 crore target students around 70 lakh bicycles have been distributed. This includes current year's coverage of around 12.38 lakh students of Class IX of academic year 2018.

In the current Financial Year 4,06,095 Caste Certificates (SC/ST- 2,24,930 and OBC-1,81,165) have been issued so far. It is expected that another 1.50 lakh caste Certificates shall be issued further till the end of this financial year.

6 Development and Cultural Boards have been set up under the Tribal Development Department.

Under Special Central Assistance (SCA to SCSP), a sum of Rs. 86.27 Cr. has been utilized in 2017-18 for employment generation.

Construction Work for Ambedkar Centre for Excellence (ACE) at Bongaon in North 24 Parganas is at advanced stage and is expected to be functional from 2020-21.

Special Recruitment Drive to remove shortfall in the percentage of ST employees in Govt. jobs were taken up. Till date 1,736 ST vacancies were filled up in different Departments.

Under West Bengal Kendu Leaves Collectors Social Security Scheme (WBKLCSSS) 2015, 574 beneficiaries were provided with compensation/relief.

Old Age Pension @ Rs. 1,000 per month is given to ST persons in rural areas and stressed tea gardens covering 1,49,327 beneficiaries.

Through renewed efforts initiated during 2012-13, till date 46,410 individual forest *pattas*, 738 Community Forest Rights and 64 Community Forest Resource Rights have been issued to the forest dwellers. 323 'Jaher Than' (Places of worship of Santhals) have been fenced at a cost of Rs. 2.62 Cr.

Kurukh language has been recognized by the State Government as one of the official languages of the State.

I propose to allocate Rs. 966 Cr. to the Backward Classes Welfare and Rs. 912 Cr. to the Tribal Development Departments for the next Financial Year.

4.32 Labour Welfare

Five different Social Security Schemes for unorganized labour were converged in common single comprehensive scheme named SAMAJIK SURAKSHA YOJANA, effective from April 1, 2017.

As on October 2018, 1.01 crore workers have been covered under the Samajik Mukti Card Scheme. Rs.1,274.29 Cr. have been disbursed as benefit to the workers.

A special benefit, first of its kind in the country, has been introduced for completion of UG Education or equivalent skill development for girl child with admissibility only on remaining unmarried, to serve the twin goals of higher education and preventing early marriage.

The medical benefits have been enhanced from Rs. 10,000 per year to Rs. 20,000 per year and medical benefits for surgery made uniform for all unorganized workers at Rs. 60,000 per year.

In addition to the above, the payment of Puja/EID Ex-gratia to the beneficiaries are made by the State Government @ Rs.1,500 payable once in a year. During 2018-19, 13,271 beneficiaries have received Rs. 18.35 Cr. up to October, 2018.

Under the Yuvasree Scheme, Government has disbursed financial assistance of Rs. 1,500 per month to 1 lakh jobseekers enrolled in Employment Bank.

I propose to allocate Rs. 959 Cr. to the Labour Department for the next Financial Year.

4.33 Self Help Group & Self Employment

This Year, up to 31st December, 2018, assistance of Rs. 137.61 Cr. was provided to 17,479 entrepreneurs under the Swami Vivekananda Swanirbhar Karmasansthan Prakalpa (SVSKP).

Interest subsidy of Rs. 157.91 Cr. was provided to 3,70,137 Self Help Groups (SHGs) under West Bengal Swanirbhar Sahayak Prakalpa (WBSSP).

12 Training-cum-Marketing Complexes (Karmatirtha) have been set up to facilitate training of Self Help Groups. Construction of another 33 Karmatirthas has been taken up.

I propose to allocate Rs. 622 Cr. to the Self Help Group & Self Employment Department for the next Financial Year.

4.34 North Bengal Development

A large number of Anganwadi Centres, creches, Mid Day Meal kitchen sheds, Mid Day Meal lunch sheds etc. have been constructed in various Tea Gardens as well as Primary and Secondary Schools. Funds have been provided for the repair, maintenance and painting of such schools.

To solve the problem of drinking water, specially in the Tribal dominated areas, as well as Tea Garden areas, NBDD has taken up mini piped water supply schemes.

NBDD has taken up the improvement of facilities in rural markets, hats and bazaars in several districts.

To promote culture and to provide modern facilities to the people of North Bengal, NBDD has taken up the construction of several auditoria as well as repair and upgradation of many more. NBDD has also taken up the construction of several electric crematoria in various municipal towns in North Bengal.

Beautification of towns and river fronts has been taken up at Jalpaiguri, Balurghat and Dhupguri. For reducing energy consumption street lights of various municipalities have been replaced with LED lights.

To encourage sports in rural areas, NBDD has taken up the construction of several rural stadia in convergence with MGNREGA at Malda, Darjeeling, Alipurduar and Dakshin Dinajpur Districts.

NBDD has taken up construction of (three) truck termini at Hilli, Dakshin Dinajpur District; Narayanpur, Malda District and Khagrabari, Cooch Behar district. The approximate expenditure per truck terminus is Rs. 20 Cr.

NBDD has invested heavily in minor irrigation, drainage as well as irrigation schemes. The amount earmarked for NBDD in 2018-19 is Rs. 70 Cr.

I propose to allocate Rs. 683 Cr. to the North Bengal Development Department for the next Financial Year.

4.35 Sundarban Development

As part of development of infrastructure in remote and inaccessible regions of Sundarban, construction of

RCC Bridge at Muslimpara over river Arora in G.P. Gopalnagar of Patharpratima Block with a Project Cost of Rs. 369.80 lakh, RCC bridge at Namkhana Narayani Vidyamandir School (H.S.) over Ghiabati Canal connecting Mouza Narayanpur and Ganeshnagar with Mouza Nadabhanga in Narayanpur GP of Block Namkhana in the South 24 Parganas district has been completed at a Project Cost of Rs. 153.83 lakh and RCC bridge at Moynapara (Jelepara) over river Ghiabati in Kakdwip Block at a Project cost of Rs. 218.22 lakh in South-24 Parganas district have been completed.

During 2018–19, 394.60 km of roads (of which 252 km Brick Paved Road; 103.50 km Concrete Road; 39.10 km Bituminous Road) and 6 nos. of R.C.C. Jetty have been completed. 3 Bridges have also been completed. Works of another 6 nos. of Bridges have been taken up.

Agricultural inputs and small implements to 1,17,500 beneficiaries are being distributed in this financial year. IMC Fish Fingerlings, Air Breathing Fish and Fish Feed for Composite Fish Cultures have been distributed to 20,849 beneficiaries.

Mangrove, Strip & Jhaw Plantation have been created in 890 hectares. Total area of 960 hectares is proposed to be brought under afforestation (including Mangrove, Strips, Jhaw plantation) in the year, 2019–20.

I propose to allocate Rs. 518 Cr. to the Sundarban Affairs Department for the next Financial Year.

4.36 Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs

With the creation of two new districts of Jhargram and Paschim Bardhaman recently, the jurisdiction of PUP is now over seven districts, viz, Bankura, Birbhum, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Paschim Medinipur, Purulia and Jhargram spreading over 12,558 villages in 651 Gram Panchayats (GP) covering 74 Blocks.

During the year, 70,93,163 people are being benefitted from different programmes and schemes implemented by the Department.

Special attention is given by the Department in Sectoral Schemes/Projects including Livelihood programmes, Implementation of Jangalmahal Action Package in 34 Blocks covering 5 JAP Districts and Promotion of cultural activities awareness generation and observance of Jangalmahal Utsav.

2,850 Sectoral schemes have been undertaken in 7 Districts of Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs Department during 2018-19.

I propose to allocate Rs. 598 Cr. to the Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs Department in the next Financial Year.

Industry: Small, Medium & Large

4.37 Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textiles

95 new small scale industry Clusters have been taken up taking the total number of Clusters to 520 from 425.

In 2017-18 bank credit flow to MSME Sector has reached Rs. 44,059 Cr. In 2018-19 Credit Flow to this Sector achieved Rs. 20,287 Cr. during April-September, 2018 registering a 13 % growth on Y-O-Y basis over the same period in FY 2017-18.

23,411 new pit looms and accessories have been supplied to weavers.

Sales turnover of TANTUJA achieved Rs.181.35 Cr. as on 30th November, 2018 registering 28% increase in sales turnover on Y-O-Y basis over the same period in FY 2017-18.

After recovering from accumulated loss of Rs. 38 Cr. since 1976, MANJUSHA made a profit of Rs. 2.32 Cr. for the first time in 2015-16 and achieved a sales turnover of Rs. 47.41 Cr. Thereafter, the organization continued to earn profit. In 2017-18, its profit was Rs. 5.87 Cr. Till November, 2018 in FY 2018-19, MANJUSHA achieved a sales turnover of Rs. 76.88 Cr.

Development of 9 Hubs (Govt and Govt assisted) has been taken up in different Districts to strengthen industrial infrastructure.

Up to November 2018, 4 regional SYNERGY Events have been organized at Siliguri, Bankura, Malda and Durgapur covering the all adjoining Districts.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,033 Cr. to the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textiles Department for the next Financial Year.

4.38 Industry, Commerce & Enterprises

The 2-day long Bengal Global Business Summit 2018 successfully hosted by the State brought together Industrialists & Entrepreneurs from India and around the world to explore business opportunities. 32 countries participated in the Event. The Summit attracted USD 145.93 billion worth of business proposals from various Sectors.

During 2018-19 land has been allotted to 8 Industrial Units by West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited involving proposed investment & employment of Rs. 583.56 Crore and 1,813 persons respectively.

Allotment has been made to 35 companies in the Gems & Jewellery Park at Ankurhati with a proposed investment of Rs. 120 Cr. and proposed employment of 2,357 people. 19.058 acres of land has been allotted to 8 Units at Rishi Bankim Silpa Udyan with investment of Rs. 415.03 Cr. and employment of 5,901 people.

During 2018-19, major companies implementing their projects in various Industrial Parks are Keventer Agro, Sika India Pvt. Ltd., Kalimata Vypaar Pvt. Ltd., Hasta Vyapaar Pvt. Ltd., Ananda Bazar Patrika, Z-test LLP, Prakar Food, Emami Agrotech, AB Jewels Pvt. Ltd., etc. Titan Company Ltd. has been allotted 8 Modules totalling to 20,273 sq.ft. during this financial year.

Haldia Petrochemicals Limited has been rejuvenated with the help of the State Government. Presently it has revived to 97% of its capacity employing 3,000 workers. This is catering to the need of raw material for 2,500 downstream industries in the Plastic Sector providing employment opportunity to about 5 lakh people. The erstwhile Mitsubishi Chemicals has been revamped and it presently has 2,500 employees.

West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation has allotted 1,623 acres of land out of 2,110 acres to 489 nos. of industrial units in different Industrial Growth Centres with projected investment of Rs. 3,519 Cr. and employment of 44,512 persons.

Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation has entered into a Joint Venture agreement with M/s GAIL (India) Limited which has been christened as Bengal Gas Ltd. This Joint Venture would usher in an era of improved technology for efficacious distribution of Natural Gas. The Company will start operations in FY 2019-20. About 75 km of gas pipelines will be laid and 6 CNG Stations will be operational with a target to provide piped Natural Gas to estimated 20,000 households.

Government of West Bengal is going to notify the Tajpur Port Limited for which approval has already been received from the Cabinet Standing Committee.

Raghunathpur Industrial Park in Purulia district has been selected as the priority site for developing the proposed Integrated Manufacturing Cluster (IMC) over 2,483 acres of land.

AMUL has proposed to make an investment of Rs. 200 Cr. as the Anchor Investor in the 3rd Phase of the Food Park developed by West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation at Sankrail situated in Howrah district.

WBIDC is developing 7.2 lakh sq.ft. of space over an area of 9.85 acres of land at Budge Budge as Garment Park. Master Plan has been developed for Industrial Parks at Haringhata (358 acres), Nadia and Goaltore (950.16 acres), Paschim Medinipur.

West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation has allotted 67 acres of land to Gujarat Ambuja Exports Limited for setting up of Maize and Derivative Processing Unit at Malda Industrial Growth Centre (Phase-II) with a proposed investment of Rs. 270 Cr. and employment of 325 persons.

Setting target to complete pre-mining activities of Gurangdih ABC Coal Mine in order to start commercial production during the year 2020-21, exploratory work like sampling of Gold Ore at Gorapahar, Jhargram and detailed exploration for Tungsten Ore at Chandapathar, Bankura will be done during 2019-20.

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,304 Cr. to the Industries, Commerce & Enterprises Department for the next Financial Year.

The Service Sector

4.39 Tourism

AAHORAN, The State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM), Durgapur has commenced its session in July, 2018.

With a vision to sensitize and create awareness among the common people of the State about the activities, tourist destinations and products, West Bengal Tourism for the first time has organized ‘Bengal Tourism Festivals’ in different Districts. Six (6) such Bengal Tourism Festivals in Digha, Bolpur, Bishnupur, Chandannagar, Kalyani & Naihati have already been organized with huge footfalls.

A special drive to upgrade all Tourist Lodges of WBTDCL to 3-Star facilities has been undertaken. Phase wise work has already started.

To showcase the immense investment opportunities in the Bhorer Alo Eco Tourism Project at Gajoldoba, an ‘Investors’ Meet’ was held on 3rd November, 2018 with potential investors.

A large number of foreign delegates and people of the State witnessed the Red Road Carnival 2018 - The Grand Immersion Procession of Goddess Durga.

New tourism projects taken up during 2018-19 include development of Jaychandipahar Tourism Project, construction of Bhasa Saudha (Bangavukti Udyan) at Puncha Development Block, Purulia, complete renovation of Teesta Paryatak Abas, development of Tourism in Doladanga, Purulia, development of Tourism in Muruguma,

Purulia, complete renovation of Jaldapara Tourist Lodge, complete renovation of Murti Tourist Lodge, complete renovation of Pathik Motel, complete renovation of Shantiniketan Tourist Lodge and complete renovation of Bishnupur Tourist Lodge.

I propose to allocate Rs. 385 Cr. to the Tourism Department for the next Financial Year.

4.40 Information Technology & Electronics

The Government of West Bengal, under the visionary leadership of the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, has planned to set up the Bengal Silicon Valley Hub in Rajarhat. The recently inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in August, 2018, the greenfield Bengal Silicon Valley Hub project is spread over an area of about 200 acres of land in New Town, Kolkata. Bidding process for allotment of land to different IT Companies has already started.

Total 17 IT Parks in Tier-II and Tier-III Cities in the State such as Krishnanagar, Durgapur, Siliguri, Kharagpur, Asansol, Bolpur, Haldia, Taratala, Howrah, Kalyani, Rajarhat, Barjora and Purulia are in operation with 70.54% occupancy of space. More than 190 IT Companies are active and have provided more than 3,000 direct employment opportunities to IT professionals in the State. 9 more IT Parks at Sector-V, 3 nos. at Kalyani (Phase-II), Durgapur (Ph-III), Belur, Rajarhat (Ph-II), Darjeeling and Kalimpong are at different stages of execution. To provide an ecosystem for local Electronics Hardware Industry in the State, the Government has set

up a Hardware Park on 10 acres of land at Sonarpur on the southern outskirts of Kolkata. The plots are ready and online land allotment on First-Come-First-Serve basis is operational.

Under BharatNet Phase-I in West Bengal, 2,639 Gram Panchayats (out of 3,354 GPs) and 275 Block Head Quarters (out of 341) have been connected over OFC.

I propose to allocate Rs. 247 Cr. to the Information Technology & Electronics Department for the next Financial Year.

5

Tax Reforms

5.1 Settlement of Disputes for VAT, Sales Tax and Entry Tax

Hon'ble Members, our Settlement of Dispute Scheme introduced in June 2017 was a resounding success with a whopping collection of Rs. 1,100 Cr.

Now in order to provide relief to the GST tax payers with outstanding dues the subsumed VAT, CST and Entry Tax, we have introduced a new Scheme in November, 2018. These tax payers can now settle the disputes by payment of only 35% of disputed tax with regard to VAT/Sales Tax and full payment Entry Tax with full waiver of penalty and interest.

5.2 Settlement of Dispute for Motor Vehicle Cases

Similarly, a Scheme for settlement of Motor Vehicle Tax has been introduced. All pending disputed cases can now be settled under the scheme with the payment of 35%/50% (as may be applicable) disputed tax, with full waiver of penalty.

5.3 Exemption of Cess on Tea

Hon'ble Members, exemption from Education Cess and Rural Employment Cess levied on green tea leaves was given for 2018-19. I now propose to give full exemption to the tea gardens from payment of Education Cess and Rural Employment Cess for a period of next two financial years.

6

New Initiatives

6.1 Financial Support to Youth for Self-Employment

Since 2011, the main thrust of the State Government is to provide more and more job opportunities for the unemployed youth in the Government.

In order to further create self-employment opportunities for the unemployed youth of the State, the State Government has decided to introduce a new Scheme of providing every year a financial assistance of Rs. 1.00 lakh each to 50,000 unemployed youth in the State for self-employment.

6.2 Increase in Honorarium of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers

Hon'ble Members, in recognition of the important role played by Anganwadi Workers and Helpers in building the foundation of our children by providing pre-school education and nutrition, the State Government had increased their honorarium from 1st October, 2018. I am happy to inform the August House that the State

Government has decided to further increase the honorarium by Rs. 500 per month from 1st February, 2019. This will help more than 2,10,000 Anganwadi Workers and Helpers.

6.3 Increase in Honorarium of ASHA Workers

Hon'ble Members, in recognition of the important role played by ASHA Workers in reaching Primary Healthcare to the people living in remotest villages, the State Government had increased their honorarium from 1st October, 2018. I am happy to inform the August House that the State Government has decided to further increase the honorarium of ASHA Workers by Rs. 500 per month from 1st February, 2019. This will help more than 50,000 ASHA Workers.

6.4 Increase in remuneration of Contractual Group D and Group C staff

The contractual worker play a very important role in providing services to the public. In recognition of their services, the State Government has decided to increase their monthly wages by Rs. 2000 across all the existing slabs from 1st February, 2019. I also propose to effect a similar increase in monthly remuneration of all the Contractual IT Personnel including Data Entry Operators from 1st February, 2019. This increase in monthly remuneration will benefit around 1 lakh contractual workers currently engaged with the State Government.

6.5 Increase in terminal benefits given as ex-gratia to the contractual workers

Hon'ble Members, in order to secure the future of all contractual staff, this Government had earlier increased payment of ex-gratia from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh. I now propose to increase from 1st February, 2019 the ex-gratia amount from the existing Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 3 lakh. This will benefit around 1 lakh contractual workers.

6.6 Opportunity to Contractual Gr. D for engagement as Contractual Gr. C

Hon'ble Members, at present a Contractual Gr. D worker, despite possessing requisite educational qualification remains a contractual Gr. D throughout in engagement up to 60 years. I am happy to announce that with the objective of giving benefits to them, all Contractual Gr. D workers who attain educational qualification of Madhyamik Pass or above & have been in engagement for more than 3 years will be given the benefit of engagement as Contractual Gr. C Workers. This will benefit more than 50,000 such Contractual Gr. D Workers.

Conclusion

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, employment is the main Mantra of our Maa, Mati, Manush Government. The country is still suffering from the hasty & improper implementation of GST and the shock of demonetization. Despite all this, till now during the Financial Year 2018-19, we have been able to create 9.05 lakh employment opportunities in our State.

I take this opportunity to inform the Hon'ble Members of this August House that under the inspiration and guidance of our Hon'ble Chief Minister we have been able to weather these adverse conditions and continue to move forward on the path of development.

For the Financial Year 2019-20, I propose a Budget of Rs. 2,37,964.35 Cr. on behalf of our State Government.

Sir, I would like to conclude my Budget Speech with the inspirational words of Atul Prasad which resonate with the current social and political climate:

নানা ভাষা, নানা মত, নানা পরিধান,
বিবিধের মাঝে দেখ মিলন মহান।
দেখিয়া ভারতে মহাজাতির উত্থান,
জগ জন মানিবে বিস্ময়
জগ জন মানিবে বিস্ময়।

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2019-2020

WEST BENGAL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2019–2020

(Rupees in Crore)

	Actuals, 2017–2018	Budget, 2018–2019	Revised, 2018–2019	Budget, 2019–2020
Receipts				
1. Opening Balance	15.79	(–)3.00	(–)20.58	(–)5.00
2. Revenue Receipts	131270.39	146747.76	152625.48	164327.95
3. Capital Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4. Receipts from Debt Heads—				
(i) Public Debt	45743.81	67991.29	71828.30	78383.53
(ii) Loans	213.59	2822.74	297.01	350.01
5. Receipts from Contingency Fund and Public Account	822926.72	561774.95	852226.74	900834.09
Total	1000170.30	779333.74	1076956.95	1143890.58
Expenditure				
6. Revenue Expenditure	141077.36	146747.76	160149.60	164327.95
7. Capital Expenditure	19368.08	25755.55	24412.45	26666.61
8. Expenditure on Debt Heads—				
(i) Public Debt	25010.92	41582.81	41516.93	46032.00
(ii) Loans	(–)30.56	872.63	858.29	937.77
9. Expenditure on Contingency Fund and Public Account	814765.08	564380.99	850024.68	905935.25
10. Closing Balance	(–)20.58	(–)6.00	(–)5.00	(–)9.00
Total	1000170.30	779333.74	1076956.95	1143890.58

(Rupees in Crore)

	Actuals, 2017–2018	Budget, 2018–2019	Revised, 2018–2019	Budget, 2019–2020
Net Results—				
Surplus (+)/ Deficit (–)				
(a) On Revenue Account	(–)9806.97	0.00	(–)7524.12	0.00
(b) Outside Revenue Account	9770.60	(–)3.00	7539.70	(–)4.00
(c) Net, excluding Opening Balance	(–)36.37	(–)3.00	15.58	(–)4.00
(d) Net, including Opening Balance	(–)20.58	(–)6.00	(–)5.00	(–)9.00
(e) Expenditure for New Programmes/Additional Outlays/Additional Dearness Allowance				
(i) On Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(ii) Outside Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(f) Expenditure for New Additional Outlays				
(i) On Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(ii) Outside Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(g) Additional Resource Mobilisation under Tax Revenue	..	..	..	..
(h) Net Revenue Deficit	(–)9806.97	0.00	(–)7524.12	0.00
(i) Net Surplus/Deficit	(–)20.58	(–)6.00	(–)5.00	(–)9.00