

Index

* Preface	..	4
* Chief Minister's Message	..	5
* Deputy Chief Minister's Message	..	7
* Relief and Rehabilitation	..	8
* Home and Tourism	..	15
* General Administration Department	..	18
* Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries	..	22
* Industry, Energy and Labour	..	25
* Social Justice, Cultural Affairs and Special Assistance	..	30
* Women and Child-Welfare	..	32
* Public Health, Medical Education and Drugs	..	34
* Food and Civil Supplies	..	37
* Rural Development and Water Conservation..		40
* Finance	..	45
* Planning	..	49
* Water Resources	..	53
* Higher and Technical Education	..	55
* Housing	..	57
* Revenue and Forest	..	60
* Urban Development	..	62
* Tribal Welfare	..	63
* Employment and Self-employment	..	64
* Co-operation and Textile	..	65
* Public Works	..	68
* Law and Judiciary	..	60
* Education and Sports	..	70
* Water Supply and Sanitation	..	72

Preface...

I am pleased to hand over this booklet, a compilation of important decisions taken by the Government of Maharashtra during 1st November 2004 and 1st November 2005.

I wish in this book, you would be able to know the direction of the Government, at a glance. After the July floods, the entire government administration had to concentrate on the relief and rehabilitation for some time. The rehabilitation work will continue. Unperturbed by the worst ever natural calamity the Government continued to march on the pavement of progress steadily. Hope this compilation of the government's schemes, movements and decisions will give you a symbolic glimpse of the first year. We don't claim it to be all-inclusive, if at all any such decision is left out, we would accommodate it in our next publication.

I am confident that media people would be the most to be benefited by this.

Bhushan Gagrani
Director General
Information and Public

Date : 1st November, 2005
Relations

Resolve to Rebuild Maharashtra

The Democratic Front Government in Maharashtra is completing its first year. The period is not enough to assess the performance of any government. However, I feel proud to state that we have fulfilled many promises of the combined manifesto.

We, like many, envisage strengthen the state economy by developing industry and technology department. Our priorities are agriculture, farmers, rural development and employment to rural unemployed. Our performance of the first year clearly reflects this.

We aim at providing assistance to every farmer for his economic development by giving boost to cattle farming, horticulture, floriculture and poultry businesses. Recently, we resolved to implement national horticulture movement. It will be included in employment guarantee scheme. The government has provided 40 lakh Kisan Credit Cards to farmers to facilitate get loans for agriculture. The government has waived off for Rabi and Kharif crop loans of farmers worth Rs. 350 crores. We have computerized land records and have distributed land record books to 75 lakh landholders and computerized land records to 15 lakh farmers.

We have focused our attention on increasing healthcare facilities for rural areas. In view of this we have appointed Pada volunteers and mobile doctors in 15 Tribal districts. To avoid malnutrition of adivasi mothers and children we have started work by Jijau Mata Mission. We have increases the amount of scholarship for backward class students. Some important decisions have also been taken to enhance facilities for tribal schools. Integrated

development programme has been implemented. We have taken initiative to develop horticulture and floriculture in Konkan.

We have taken necessary measures that would develop Vidarbha and Nagpur could be seen as an important industrial city in near future. Development of international Cargo Hub in Nagpur will give a boost to the state development.

The State government has given extension to statutory development boards till 2010 and the Central Government has given its consent to it.

This year's monsoon put Maharashtra to the test. The state experienced real havoc due to unprecedented rains. Successfully tackling the worst-ever natural calamity, the administration proved that it has mastered the skills of disaster management. The loss in the disaster is to the tune of Rs. 12,500 crore. In the hour of ordeal, the Government took decision to distribute Rs. 400 crores in cash to flood-hit. For building temporary sheds and distributing food grains the administration worked relentlessly day and night.

Now we are rebuilding Maharashtra. In my opinion it is important to emphasize on development of physical urban infrastructure of roads, electricity and drinking water. Development of barren land, protecting labour and modernizing police department are also equally important.

On this occasion, I must mention that Maharashtra is the first state to implement the Right to Information with the wider scope. We have put a step forward for a clean and disciplined administration. We are committed to do still more good things in the future. Our main aim is to give facelift to the state capital, the metropolis of Mumbai. I am confident, if it becomes the biggest centre of economic power in Asia, Maharashtra will naturally flourish phosphorescently.

I conclude with the expectation that your valuable cooperation would continue, like this year, in making the dream of a Stronger Maharashtra a reality.

Vilasrao

Deshmukh

Chief Minister

Good Wishes

In November 2005 the Democratic Front Government in Maharashtra is completing one year in service. I was glad to know that on this occasion the Directorate of Information and Public Relations is bringing out a booklet on important decisions taken by the government in this period.

The state government has taken many important decisions that have assured people the good governance. One such very important decision was to ban dance bars that were ruining the young generation of the State. Police recruitment, modernization of police force, video conferencing network between courts and jails, surrender scheme for Naxals, Rs. 2,671 - crore package for the Marathwada Development and Contributory pension scheme for the state government employees are some the important decisions.

I believe that booklet will help reach these decisions to the people. My best wishes for the good work.

R. R. Patil

Deputy Chief Minister

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

On 26th and 27th July 2005 Maharashtra, including Mumbai, was devastated by torrential rains. Agriculture areas suffered heavy losses, financial losses and death toll was also heavy. However, the State Government pressed into action soon. To tackle the unprecedented situation rehabilitation of flood-hit was required on war-footing and Maharashtra took the following measures.

- * Orders were given to implement relief measures not withstanding the formalities.**
- * Nearest kin of the victim was distributed Rs. 2 lakh in cash, Rs 1 lakh each from the State and the Central Government.**
- * Existing rules that did not allow any financial aid to the kin of the victim above 65 age and also to the kin of more than one victim in one family. we relaxed the norm.**
- * Every flood-affected family was given wheat and rice 10 kg each and 10 litre kerosene.**
- * Those families who were shifted temporarily for security reason were also given help like that of the flood-hit families.**
- * Housing societies in Mumbai whose houses were under water, were given Rs.5,000 as ex-gratia.**
- * Envisaged implement Cattle Insurance Scheme on the lines of Crop Insurance Scheme for the dead cattle.**
- * All students in the state will be given the compensation under the Rajiv Gandhi Student Insurance Scheme. The State Government will compensate the students who have lost their books and other school literature.**
- * Financial aid of Rs. 10,000 was also given even to those flood-hit shop keepers who had not insured the shops, Rs.5,000 to stall-owner and Rs. 2,500 to handcart owner.**
- * District Collectors were empowered to spend Rs. 15,000 per house to build temporary shelters for the flood-hit.**
- * The flood-affected small entrepreneurs' Insurance claims would be expedited.**
- * Co-ordination committee was constituted for relief measures.**

* Government write off the interest on small loans of farmers and converted small term loans into medium term loans.

Assistance for Flood-affected

The Government decided to give ex-gratia to farmers who lost over 50 % their crops, up to 2 hectares as per the crop as given below:

* Affected crop area of Sugarcane and Banana was to the tune of 1 lakh hectares and Government gave Rs.10,000 ex-gratia per hectare.

* Affected crop area of Rice and Cotton was to the tune of 2.5 lakh hectares and Government gave Rs. 5,000 ex-gratia per hectare.

* Affected area of other crops and vegetables was to the tune of 6 lakh hectares and Government gave Rs. 3,500 ex-gratia per hectare.

* Affected area of fruits was to the tune of 50 lakh hectares and Government gave Rs.10,000 ex-gratia per hectare.

* For the totally damaged turmeric crop Government gave Rs. 7,500 ex-gratia to each farmer.

* For the washed out irrigated field Government gave Rs. 25,000 ex-gratia to each farmer and for non-irrigated field government gave Rs.15,000 ex-gratia to each farmer.

* For the loss of big cattle the farmer was given Rs. 10,000 in all, Rs 2,500 as ex-gratia and Rs 7,500 as loan. Similarly, for small cattle in all Rs 1,000 was given, Rs. 250 ex-gratia and Rs.750 as loan.

Mithi River Development and Protection Authority

The Government constituted an independent Authority for development and protection of Mithi River that connects east and west Mumbai. This authority would take all necessary measures to avoid a calamity similar to that of 26th July 2005 in future. The Authority will have powers to approve development plan, execute the plan, rehabilitate the project-affected and co-ordinate the institutes concerned in the project.

The Chief Minister will be the chairman and the Deputy Chief Minister will be the vice-chairman of the authority. Revenue Minister, Finance Minister, Urban Development Minister, Mayor of Mumbai, Standing Committee Chairman of Brihan-mumbai Municipality Corporation (BMC), MPs and MLAs of the concerned area of the river, the Chief Secretary of the state, Commissioner of the BMC, Principal Secretary of Revenue, Principal Secretary of Housing, Secretary of Special Projects, Director of IIT, Director of NIRI (Nagpur) and environment experts nominated by the government will be the other members.

A high power committee will be constituted under the Chief Secretary and will include: Additional Chief Secretaries of Planning and Finance, Metropolis Commissioner, Principal Secretary of Urban Development, Secretary of Special Projects, Director of NIRI (Nagpur) and the State Pollution Control Board. Director of Mithi River Authority will be member secretary of the high power committee.

A project management group will be formed to boost the development process of the river. It will be comprised of project director, assistant project director (rehabilitation, environment and engineering) and other employees. Financial assistance will be provided to

the Authority by the Central Government, State Government, BMC, MMRDA, and financial institute.

Maharashtra State Disaster Management Authority

The State Government has decided to form an Authority for the Disaster Management. The Government will also make an Act in this regard. In the instance of any natural calamity or disaster this Authority will take charge of Relief and Rehabilitation measures, co-ordinate and execute them. The Centre has recommended the State Government to constitute such an Authority.

The Chief Minister and Dy.Chief Minister will respectively be the chairman and vice-chairman of the Authority. Relief and Rehabilitation Minister will be the Co-ordinator while Chief Secretary will be the ex-officio secretary. The Chief Minister will nominate nine other members on the authority. An Executive Committee to assist the Authority and implement its activities will also be formed under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary. For Mumbai a sub-committee will be form under the Chairmanship of additional Chief Secretary (Home). Commissioner of Mumbai Municipal Corporation Will be the Member Secretary.

Powers and Activities of the Authority

To formulate the policy for disaster Management will be the sole responsibility of the Authority. It will also draw the disaster Management Plan and upgrade it from time to time. Similarly the authority will scrutinize the disaster Management plan of other areas and approved it. It will also look after the financial aspects to avoid calamities, take precautionary measures and over view the progress of the plans of the others areas. The Authority will also organise necessary training for disaster management and make recommendation as and when required.

The action Plan

Action Plan for the disaster Management will be drawn on district and taluka level and will be the part of the consolidated plan for the state. The plans would include aspects like : To understand the possible disaster in different areas, to take precautionary measures, to alert people, to train them, to supervise the plan and make financial provision for the disaster management.

Fact Finding Committee on heavy flooding

The Government has decided to form a committee to find the facts and factors that led to an un-controllable situation following heavy down pour on 26th July 2005 that resulted in financial loss of the state to the tunes of thousand crores, loss of property and life in Mumbai. The three-member committee will consist of senior Government official as member secretary and to non-government members who would be experts from different fields.

Measures to tackle flooding in Mumbai

Incessant rains followed by floods caused heavy damage to Maharashtra. The State Government has taken following steps to control the situation :

Trace for the missing people will continue for two months and after that the Government will take undertaking from their kin of the and give assistance to the kin as per the existing norms.

Panchanama's of all crops including sugarcane will be done by agriculture ministry

People who were required to shift from their residential areas due to damages to their houses will be rehabilitated at secured places. Surveys for the purpose will be conducted by municipal corporation or district administration and would submit the report to the State Government.

For the repair work of the public properties / utilities Government has already sanctioned Rs.two Crore to every collector. The amount has been doubled and it will be used to restore Water Supply, repairs roads, bridges and public buildings as per the priorities.

Collector and Guardian Minister have been empowered to spend the funds.

Repairs to dams, percolation and canals will be done under Employment Gauranttee Scheme.

Maharashtra State Disaster Management Authourity

The State Government has decided to form an Authority for the Disaster.

Measures to tackle the natural calamity

The state government has submitted report of the losses in natural calamity that struck the state in the last week of July 2005 in which financial aid of Rs. 8,500 crore for the state and Rs. 3,900 crore for Mumbai has been sought.

The Central Government team was in Maharastra between August 21 and 23 after that it submitted the report to the Union Ministry. The team assured that Maharashtra would get the financial assistance on the lines of the Tsunami damages.

So far 35 lakh people, who lost their abodes, have been given a total aid of Rs. 475 crore as ex-gratia. The process to distribute the aid is on.

About 1.40,651quintal rice, 1,88,058 quintal wheat and 13.000 kilo litre kerosene distributed to about 14.63 lakh flood-hit.

The NGOs have been asked to ensure that no person is deprived of the aid. Their survey is on.

Kin next to the victims have been distributed Rs. 50 crore so far.

District collectors have been empowered to provide drinking water through tankers to the areas wherever necessary.

Work to repair damaged hand pumps was started on war-footing and supply was restored.

Drugs and chemicals were made available to purify drinking water.

Medical aid centers were opened in all wards with deploying enough staff from the places where it was not required and necessary medicines were made available as precautionary measures to control outburst of any epidemic.

Municipal Councils were asked to take help of local workers.

A meeting of all insurance companies was called and they were asked to settle the claims of all victims. Accordingly, workshops were organised for the people. Banks and insurance

companies were also instructed to dispose off the maximum claims at the earliest possible.

Rs. 416 crore made available to district collectors and regions. Rs. 5 crore made available to collectors for repairs of public property. Funds also made available as per necessary.

Rs. 12 crore made available to Food and Civil Supplies department to purchase kerosene and distribution of food grains.

Rs. 50 lakh given to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation to purchase medicines.

Rs. 9 crore 15 lakh given to Medical Education Department

In all 1,20,000 coupons were distributed through 12 NGOs to get wheat and rice 10 kg each for immediate aid.

Maharashtra donates Rs. 86.13 crore to Tsunami victims

On 27th December 2004 southern state like Pondechery, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar islands were hit by the devastating Tsunami and suffered a huge loss. The state government immediately announced aid of Rs. 5 crores for them. Two planes loaded with medicines, clothes, blankets, tents and other necessary things were sent. Appeal made to businessmen, social institutes and all political parties to donate for the victims. The State government employees donated a day's salary. Ministers and MLAs announced to donate their salary of a month were also.

Representatives of social service institutes and doctors went for help. The state government deployed an official of the secretary rank to co-ordinate the relief and rehabilitation measures. The Chief Minister and the Rehabilitation Minister visited the Tsunami hit areas and assessed the damages. The state also adopted the Karayakal area of Pondechery for rehabilitation under which 2000 houses of 400 s.q. ft. will be constructed by the state government.

Rs. 1 crore aid for quake-hit Jammu and Kashmir

The state government has announced Rs. 1 crore aid for the earthquake affected people of Jammu and Kashmir. Of that 3,000 blankets, 25 roles of tarpaulin, 100 boxes of biscuits and 800 blazers will soon be sent to J & K.

HOME AND TOURISM

The government has taken following significant decisions with a view to maintaining law and order situation in the state.

Ban on Dance Bars

The government brought into effect a legal ban on dance bars in the state from 14th August 2005. The Bill in this effect was debated for 13 hours in both houses of the state legislature. Accordingly, The Mumbai Police Act 1951 has been amended. About 1,60,000 citizens had submitted memoranda to the Speaker of the State Assembly demanding ban on dance bars.

It aims at preventing the young generation from getting perverted. All strata of the society have hailed the decision of the Government.

*** Mumbai Police Web-site**

A website of Mumbai police www.mumbaipolice.org was inaugurated on 17th October 2005. It contains the information of 83 police stations. People can lodge their complaint for non-cognizable cases the website now.

*** Modernization of Police Force**

Administrative approval accorded to allocation of Rs.178.87 crore in the budget for 2004-05 for the modernization of the state police force.

In all 43 new phone lines made available for Criminal Information System.

Stitching and Washing Allowance for the constables and officers has been hiked from 9th September 2005.

Upgradation of Forensic Lab

Administrative approval accorded to allocation of Rs.3.70 crore for upgrading the Forensic Laboratory and the police department.

Approval accorded to recruitment of 154 posts on 3rd October 2005.

The Government has resolved to train police officers to make the police force more public-oriented in view of the increasing population in cities and over-burdening on the law and order situation. Accordingly, funds of Rs. 75 lakh for the training of Mumbai Commissionerate officers, Rs.2 crore 40 lakh for district headquarters/commissionerates and Rs. 40 lakh for police training colleges have been sanctioned.

Policy decision taken to develop jetties at 7 small harbours of the 48 on the 720 km coastline of the state. Sanctions have been given to some companies to develop captive jetties for their use.

Video Conferencing system started in 17 jails of Mumbai, Thane and Pune for hearing of criminals in the jails.

On the occasion of World Women Day women criminals above 60 years released on conditions. Government decided to improve the quality of the food served to criminal.

Administrative approval accorded to allocation of Rs.8 cr. 32 lakh and 998 for modernization of Home Guards.

The government launched Maharashtra Police Family Health Scheme with the help of Family Health Plan Limited on 18th May 2005. Rs.7.5 crore have been earmarked for it. Total 1,53,000 police to be benefited.

Decision has been taken to give kin of the victims died or injured in Naxalite attack compensation to the police.

*** Rs. 40 crore made available for the first phase for repairs of police housing societies and colonies in the state. Rs. 30crore to spent for maintenance of housing colonies this year. Police housing scheme plan to be implemented on privatization basis.**

Improved communal harmony scheme implemented on 7th February 2005

163Bolero jeeps purchased for the police department.

Remuneration for police patil hiked

Special Women police security branch started in Nashik Police Commissionerate.

Special recruitment to be made in Naxalite areas. Rs. 70 lakh made available to curb Naxal activities in Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Bhandara.

In all 11,021 constables to be recruited in the state police force. Administrative approval accorded to allocation of Rs.141 cr. 77 lakh for the purpose.

Naxalites Surrender Scheme

A scheme has been drawn to dissuade Naxalites and accept them into the mainstream. The scheme is to be implemented soon. For a Naxalite at the level of Dalam Commander who surrenders, will be given the assistance upto Rs. 30,000. He will have to take an oath in public that he will not do any anti-social activities in future. He will be given land, if does not have. He would also be provided loan under self-employment scheme to earn his bread and butter. This scheme will be restricted only those whose records are with Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh or Andhra Pradesh police. Nature of the cases on the name of such person will be relaxed and later in due course of time the cases will be disposed off. For the recommendation in this regard a committee, headed by district magistrate, will be constituted.

TOURISM

The Konkan Coastline Development Project will be implemented in three phases. The project includes development of Diveagar, (Raigad), Ubha Danda (Sindhudurg) Amboli (Sindhudurg), Dhamapur (Singhudurg), Akshi-Nagaon (Raigad) and other. At these places royal tents and budget accommodations will be made available.

Tourism facilities will also be upgraded at Mahabaleshwar hill station (Satara) in three phases. The Central government has sanctioned Rs. 5 crore for it.

For the development of eco-tourism in Malshejgh at the Central government has made a provision of Rs. 3 crore. Similarly, centre has also made allocation of R.s 44.22 lakh for Guest Tourist Centre in Mumbai. The work will soon be taken up and the state government will contribute Rs. 1.50 lakh for the purpose.

For a restaurant at the Ajanta Foothil the Centre has made available funds of Rs. 37.26 lakh and the work is to be completed by the end of 2005. Ajanta-Ellora development second phase and preservation of caves is in progress.

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation office is to be computerized for which the Centre has given Rs. 90 lakh. The state will have to contribute the same amount. The Deccan Odisy luxury train booking will soon go online. The train covers Goa, Sindhudurg, Rantnagiri, Aurangabad, Jalgaon and Nashik. The route has now extended to Kolhapur.

TRANSPORATATION

The Maharashtra State Transport Corporation has earned profit of Rs. 22 crore 94 lakh rupees than its corresponding year. This was despite the fact that the most of the state was badly affected by the floods. The corporation managed to reduce expenses on fuel.

It adopted some measures whereby expenses on fuel were controlled. Refueling was done at the places on the route where rates were comparatively low. The

system fetched good results and the corporation could save Rs. 1, 40,982 per day and Rs. 5 crore 14 lakh annually.

General Administration Department

Mumbai Vision:
Resolve to make the
world-class metro

The state government has resolved to make Mumbai a world Class metropolis. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has assured all sorts of assistance for the purpose and has deputed Union Minister for State Mr. Prithviraj Chavan for the task.

This mega project requires Rs.36, 663 crore and Centre is expected to contribute Rs.10,000 crore in next five years, Rs. 2,151 crore every year.

Three important projects in Mumbai i.e.25-km Shivadi-Nhava marine bridge, Varsova-Andheri-Ghatkopar metro rail and Bandra-Worli-Nariman Point Western Expressway will get financial aid from the Centre. Plans for the projects are ready and companies of international repute have expressed their interest to develop the projects. Bids will be called and the work would start within 6 months.

In accordance with the Prime Minister's appeal to keep in mind the humanitarian view nearly 47,000 houses have been constructed as per the World Bank norms for the proposed oustees of the Mumbai Urban Transport Project and Mumbai Infrastructure Development Project and 2,40,000 people are likely to be benefited.

The state government has initiated the steps to ban plastic bags following the experience of the flooding in Mumbai in July 2005. Besides, the state government and the municipality are contemplating on taking up a cleanliness drive.

Infrastructure Development Projects approved

Basic civic facilities are inadequate in suburbs as compared to the rising population their. The state government and the municipal corporation have decided to implement the 1989 underground sewerage system project with some modifications. Its projected cost is about 1200 crore. The center has consented to share the cost.

The Rs. 1600 crore sewage treatment project is to be taken up with the assistance of the World Bank. This will control pollution of the sea and increase the quantity treated sewage water, which presently is 60%.The Rs.7,000-crore projects for other civic amenities i.e. drinking water supply (Rs. 3,700 crore), garbage management (Rs.1000 crore), public toilets (Rs.530 crore) and sewerege system (Rs.1200 crore) have been planned and Rs. 5,000 crore aid from the World Bank will be sought. The state government's share will be Rs. 1,300 crore. Proposals for World Bank aid will be submitted through the Centre.

In view of Mumbai's increasing need for the drinking water the Central Vaitarana Dam project will be implemented on BOT basis and work is to be started within a year.

Mumbai, International Financial Centre

Mumbai, the economic capital of the country, will be developed as an important financial and economic centre of Asia. A committee chaired by the governor of Reserve Bank has been constituted by the Central Government. With this Mumbai is expected to invite more investment in India.

Modernisation of Mumbai Airport

Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport handles the most air passengers in India, however the airport is not of the international standards. It requires modernisation. The Centre has decided to upgrade the standard of the airport and modernize it. Rs. 5,000 crore investment is expected through the project. The project is likely to be taken up in a year and will be completed in five years.

Even after the upgradation of the existing airport, within 10 years the airport would not be able to handle the air traffic looking at the rate it is growing. Hence, another international airport would be needed. A plan for such an airport has been drawn by CIDCO.

Wadala Truck Terminal

Work for a truck terminal at Wadala will be started soon and is expected to complete in two years. This would ease the traffic congestion in Masjid Bunder, Byculla and surrounding area. Formalities to start the work of the plan that was approved long ago are now complete.

Chhatrapati's Statue in Arabian Sea

A huge statue of the Great Maratha warrior of pre-independence era, Chhatrapati Shivaji will be installed in Arabian Sea near Mumbai. This memorial of post-independence age will lend a new identity to Mumbai. Plan for the project is ready.

Maharashtra Information Commission

Maharashtra Information Commission has been constituted in accordance with the Right to Information Act. Dr. Suresh Joshi has been nominated the first Information Commissioner of the state. The Commission will have a staff of 18 personnel including officers. Financial provision of Rs. 44.03 lakh for the office has been made available. With this the state administration has become more transparent and accountable.

Freedom Fighters' Remuneration Hiked

The state government has decided to hike the remuneration for freedom fighters to Rs. 7,000 per month. The remuneration for senior artists has also been raised to Rs. 4,000 per month.

Memorials for Dr.Kotnis, Shroff and Balgandhrva

The state has decided to construct memorials for legendary personalities whom every citizen of Maharashtra reveres most and who are the glory of the state. Accordingly memorial will be built for Dr.Kotnis in Solapur, for Padmavibhushan Govindbhai Shroff in Aurangabad and for the legendary classical singer Balgandhrva in Sangli.

Action against Corrupt officers

Senior social worker Anna Hazare had submitted cases of corruption against some officers. Action has been taken on all the 737 cases, 23 cases are sub-judice, 26 cases are

pending on administrative level and one case has been pending with District Anti-corruption Committee.

Tri-centenary of Nanded Gurudwara

The famous Gurudwara at Nanded, a replica of the Golden Temple of Amritsar will be celebrating 300 years in 2008. The government has approved the Rs. 817 crore development plan of the area surrounding the Gurudwara for the special occasion. A committee chaired by the Chief Secretary has been constituted to overview the progress of the work. The government will make available the necessary fund for the plan in next three years.

Haj pilgrimage from Nagpur and Aurangabad

Necessary arrangements have been made to facilitate the Haj pilgrims from Vidarbha, Marathwada and neighbouring state like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orisa to proceed for the holy tour from Nagpur and Aurangabad.

The pilgrims now need not come to Mumbai for Jihad. Direct flights for Jihad from Nagpur have been started. A Haj House is also proposed at Nagpur. For making proper arrangement of accommodation and other facilities committees of peoples' representatives and concerned officers have been formed in Nagpur and Aurangabad.

The Maharashtra Minority Commission has been reconstituted with statutory status accorded to it.

The government has amended the Maharashtra Transport Act to allow carriage of more cattle. ***

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Maharashtra Horticulture and Medicinal Plant Board

In accordance with the Centre's national horticulture movement the State Government has constituted a separate board. Till date 11.22 lakh hectare area has come under the cultivation of fruits. Still about 25 lakh hectare area remains non-cultivated. The board will encourage and guide farmers to cultivate more and more fruits.

Under the national horticulture programme Rs. 15,000 crores aid will be provided to the State in next 5 years. For the current year Rs.161.28 crores have been sanctioned. So far under the programme Rs.64.60 crores have been made available.

The programme is being implemented in 23 districts for the cultivation of fruits like cashew, mango, banana, orange, grapes, pomogranates as well as vegetables and medicinal plants.

Mahapik Programme

The State has adopted the principles of Dr.M.S Swaminathan committee to increase quality yield and started the Mahapik Programme. Under this programme farmers will get

all necessary information and guidance about the quality of soil, use of fertilizers, use of sophisticated agricultural tools and planning of crops etc.

The programme is being implemented from village to state level. The plan of the Mahapik will be prepared in next three years which aims at doubling the agriculture produce by 2011 using modern agriculture technology.

Accident Insurance for Farmers

The state government has assured every farmer with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company by paying Rs. 6 crore 48 lakh for the purpose. For the nearest kin of the farmer who meets an accident will get financial help. For this he does not have to pay any premium. This will benefit about one crore farmers between the age group of 12 to 70. Under the scheme nearest kin of the deceased will get Rs. One lakh while in case of loss of limb the farmer will get Rs. 50,000 as compensation. The insurance cover is applicable for all natural calamities also.

Till 7th October 2005, 1384 claims received and 313 were accepted. Scrutiny is on in 259 cases while 542 cases were found out of the insurance cover.

Agriculture Insurance Scheme

The state government has made provision of Rs. 55 crores under the Agriculture Insurance Scheme for 2005-06. For the insurance cover the government has paid Rs. 50.39 crore to the Indian Agriculture Insurance Company Limited, Mumbai.

Under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, small landholders are given subsidy in the insurance premium, for which the state has borne nearly Rs.113 lakh as its share.

Agriculture seeds have now been included in necessary items and to maintain the quality of the seeds Agriculture Department has formed the quality control wing. The wing will also implement the Agriculture Act.

Agro-technology Management Agency –ATMA

With a view to boosting up agricultural produce, encouraging agriculture research and propagating new technologies – ATMA,

Agro-technology Management Agency has been formed. The agency started working in 29 districts from March 2005. NGOs help is sought in the working of the agency.

Fish Breeding Centre

Since 2002 Fish Breeding centres are being run on contract basis. This will release Rs. 50 lakh annual burden on the state exchequer and add Rs. 65 lakh income to it. The centres on contract are being run at Morshi(Amaravi),Isapur (Yavatmal),Jaikwadi (Auranga-bad) Pech (Nagpur) and Asangaon (Thane).

Subsidy for High-speed Diesel

Subsidy has been given on sales tax for high-speed diesel required for fishermen's boats. The scheme is applicable to fishermen co-operative societies only. Under the scheme, societies get reimbursement of the sales tax paid by them on the high-speed diesel from Fisheries Commissioner.

Provision of Rs. 120 crore for the period 16th August 2005 to 31st March 2006 has been made for the purpose.

Integrated Dairy Development Programme

It has been decided to implement Integrated Dairy Development Programme in 8 districts of Marathwada to encourage Dairy Industry. The state exchequer will bear Rs. 8 crore burden for it. Under the scheme 4,000 farmers from 8 districts were distributed 8,000 high-breed cows. The cows are bought from Haryana and Punjab. Maharashtra State Milk Federation – Mahanand will provide fodder and veterinary help to farmers.

Co-operative Milk Societies Registration Norms

Norms for the registration of new taluka cooperative milk societies are approved. The previous three-tier structure remains intact. The norms will be relaxed in Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan, Khandesh and DPAP in Western Maharashtra as milk collection in these regions is less than the Western Maharashtra. The earlier norm of 40,000 litre milk collection for opening the bank account has been brought down to 20,000.

INDUSTRIES, ENERGY AND LABOUR

One of the significant decisions taken by the state government is the formation of Industries and Investment Advisory Council (IIAC). The decision was taken on 13th June 2005 with a view to encouraging industries and business as well as solving the problems related to these fields.

Activities of IIAC

Following are the activities of the IIAC which aims at making Maharashtra a premier investment centre in South and South-East Asia.

- * To look into the problems of industries and business and suggest measures to cross barriers and hurdles in the progress these fields.

- * To invite participation of industries in human resources development as per the need of the hour.

- * To act as coordinator between the entrepreneurs and the government and facilitate government in taking policy decisions

- * To recommend changes in the policies necessary for smooth growth.

- * The council has been empowered to form groups necessary for its smooth working. The council is required to meet once in three years. Industrial Development Commissioner and the state industries sub-division will provide all sort of help to the council.

FDI Special Committee

Following Chief Minister Mr. Vilasrao Deshmukh's tour to U.S.A., which promised foreign direct investment to the state, the government constituted a special committee to look into the matters of FDI. The committee is formed under the Chairmanship of chief secretary. It will scrutinise investment proposals of foreign entrepreneurs and non-resident Indian. Following are the activities of the committee. A separate cell to help foreign investors has also been established in sub-division of Industries

- * To expedite the scrutiny process of the proposed investment projects

- * **To coordinate and assess the projects in which foreign entrepreneurs and NRIs have invested.**

*** To study suggestions and proposals by industrial organisations and businessmen for inviting more investment in the state**

*** To assess the FDI regularly and encourage more investment**

I-Tech Academy

The government has established the I-Tech Academy for better implementation of Information Technology to make the state administration clean and speedy. The state has also signed memorandum of understanding with Microsoft Corporation to impart technical training to employees.

Logan Car

The state government has signed memorandum of understanding with Mahindra and Mahindra Company and invested Rs.700 crore in the production plant of company's new Logan Car.

Industrial Group for Power Transformer

The state government has approved the Siemens Limited's proposal to start an industrial unit of power transformer production at Kalva near Navi Mumbai.

India National Card Blood Bank

A memorandum of understanding has been signed with Histostem Inc. for its proposed project of India National Card Blood Bank. The project is expected to bring \$ US 20 million investment in Maharashtra.

Textile Cluster Formed

The state government has signed memorandum of understanding with Banian Tree Holding Pvt. Ltd. of Karera Group from Italy to establish a textile cluster in Maharashtra. It will be established at Chincholi, Solapur. The cluster would create an atmosphere conducive for the growth of textile industry and is likely to invite investment of about Rs. 500 crore in Maharashtra.

MoU signed with LG Electronics India

The state government has signed memorandum of understanding with LG Electronics India for extension of its plant of electronics consumer products at Ranjangaon, Pune. The project will bring in investment of about Rs. 535 crore and create about 2000 job opportunities.

Fire-crackers Industry Zone

Administrative approval has been accorded to establish Firecrackers Industry Zone at Terkheda in Osmanabad district. Accordingly, the government will acquire land for the zone. The land will be handed over to Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation for further necessary action through Osmanabad Collector.

Re-organisation of Electricity Board

The Maharashtra State Electricity Board was re-organised on 6th June 2005. The board has now been divided into four different companies i.e. Maharashtra State Electricity Board Holding Company, Maharashtra State power Generation Company, Maharashtra State Transmission Company and Maharashtra State Distribution Company.

All the four companies are government-owned.

The division aims at more generation electricity and proper distribution of power in the state. Interests of all employees have been safeguarded.

Power cut regulated

In view of the fact that power consumption in the state has increased as compared to power generation, the Power cut has been regulated in the state as per the schedule of Maharashtra State Electricity Regulation Commission.

Encouragement to power generation

The state government has accorded priority to more power generation. The 500 megawatt power generation plant at Paras and Parali in Beed district has been given the highest priority. Power will also be purchased from Tarapur Atomic Power Station and Enron Power Company.

Amendment to Electricity Act

The state has amended the electricity Act in order to control power theft and reduce the loss incurred thereby.

To encourage non-conventional power generation in the state, concerned ordinance has been converted into Act.

Subsidized Electricity for Powerlooms Owners

To protect the employment of powerloom industry the state government gave subsidy to the powerloom industry. The state exchequer had to bear the financial burden of Rs.258.69 crore.

Extension for Krishi Sanjeevani

The state government had started Krishi Sanjivani Yojna to relax the burden of the outstanding power bills of poor farmers and Yantramag Sanjivani Yojna for for the same purpose for powerloom holders.

New projects of Electricity Board

The state government accorded approval to Uran Extension project (1040 mega watt), Talegaon Gas Power Project (1400 Mega watt), Khaperkheda Coal power project extension (500 mega watt). Of the total project cost 80% will be raised through loans from and the government will give counter guarantee to it.

Subsidy for powerloom consumers

The government has decided to charge Rs.1.40 per unit to powerloom consumers since 1st June 2005 for the current year and will bear the burden of Rs. 236 crore.

Closure of Free Power Supply

The government has stopped the free electricity supply scheme instead it is supplying the power to poor farmers at the lower rates.

Non-conventional Energy Sources

The government has decided to use non-conventional power for electrification of 249 villages. The Centre has agreed to give 90% financial assistance for it while the state will bear the rest cost. The electrification work of 16 villages from Dhadgaon taluka and Akkalkuva of Nadurbar district has been started.

Electricity charges waved for Captive Power Producers

Electricity charges of the industrial units who generate Captive Power and use it will be waved for five years from 1st May 2005 in order to encourage the use of captive power.

Ratnagiri Gas and Power Pvt. Ltd.

The Ratnagiri Gas and Power Pvt. Ltd. company has been established to run a power project at Dabhol. National Thermal Power Corporation, GAIL and other financial companies have stakes in it. The government has accorded approval to purchase 2,184 mega watt from the company.

Dabhol Power Project Dispute Resolved

The dispute with the GE and Bechtel Company has now been resolved. Both companies have agreed to transfer their shares to new company. The GE and Bechtel have withdrawn all their litagations against the state government, state electricity board and MPDCL. A pact in this regard GE and its associate companies signed a pact on 1st July 2005 with state electricity board and MPDCL. The MPDCL paid \$ 110 million to GE. All the disputes have been finally resolved.

Policy for non-conventional Energy Sources

The state government has decided to implement consolidated policy for non-conventional Energy Sources. Following things are involved in it.

- 1. Barren land of Adivasis to be given on lease for the use of wind mills.**
- 2. Cultivation of plants producing Jatropha and similar seeds useful for bio-diesel**
- 3. To develop the first bio-fuel park of India**
- 4. To authorize Mahaurja – Mega Power Project Under the Clean Development Mechanism to undertake projects in different fields**
- 5. Make available project locations for non-conventional power sources**
- 6. To start power generation plants from the solid waste of hospitals and other industrial waste.**
- 7. To implement non-conventional power generation and power conservation programmes in municipal corporations and councils**
- 8. All cooperative banks to make available loans to buy machines for non-conventional power generation and power conservation**
- 9. To create public awareness and implement time-bound programme for research and development of non-conventional power sources**
- 10. To include the subject of on-conventional power sources in school curriculum and start diploma courses in ITI and poly-technique institutes on the subject**
- 11. Approval has been accorded to create 14 posts for non-conventional power ministry**
- 12. A steering committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary has been constituted to develop non-conventional power sources and suggest measures on related problems of entrepreneurs**

SOCIAL JUSTICE, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

The State Government has implemented the following two Central Government sponsored schemes under the National Social Assistance Programme.

National Pension for the Aged

Under the scheme destitute women and men above 65 years get monthly pension of Rs.75. Under the 'Shravanbal Seva Yojna' of the State Government monthly pension of Rs.175 is given to the same age group.

In 2004-05, Rs. 7375.71 lakh were given to 6,15,374 beneficiaries. Till October 2005 Rs. 39.79 lakh were distributed under the Central scheme.

National Family Benefit Scheme

The scheme is applicable to below poverty line earning member between 18 and 64 age. In case of death in accident or natural calamity his/her kin gets Rs.10,000 in lump sum. In 2004-05, Rs. 2515.83 lakh were given to 25,178 beneficiaries. Till October 2005 Rs. 1399.50 lakh were distributed under the scheme.

Sanjay Gandhi Anudan Yojna for Destitute/Economically Weak

The scheme is applicable to the blind, handicapped, and destitute above 65 who have no source of earning and are suffering from tuberculosis, cancer, paralysis, AIDS etc., below poverty line earning member between 18 and 64 age. For two beneficiaries in a family Rs. 500 is given and for more than two Rs. 625 is given.

In 2004-05, Rs. 9084.02 lakh were given to 3,26,506 beneficiaries. Till October 2005 Rs.7421.49 lakh were distributed under the scheme.

Indira Gandhi Anudan Yojna for Destitute /Landless Women Labour

The scheme is applicable to Destitute, Landless Woman Labour, widow, divorcee, woman released from prostitution, wife of earning member of family who is behind the bar. Rs. 250 per month is given to them till their permanent rehabilitation is done. For two beneficiaries in a family Rs. 500 is given and for more than two Rs. 625 is given.

In 2004-05, Rs. 2865.38 lakh were given to 1,10,768 beneficiaries. Till October 2005 Rs.2729.73 lakh were distributed under the scheme.

Scholarship for Backward Class Students

The scholarship is applicable to students seeking vocational education after std XI. In 2004-05, over Rs. 146.31 crore scholarship was distributed to 3,33,715 students. In 2005-06 provision has been made for Rs. 120 crore scholarship for 3,35,000 students.

Financial Help and Welfare of Handicapped

Handicapped people are given financial help by Apang Vitta Ani Vikas Mahamandal. In 2004-05, Rs.7,44,95,317 financial help was given to 957 applicants.

Reward for Marathi movie 'Shwas'

'Shwas', the Marathi movie that bagged the Dadasaheb Phalke National Award for the Best Film last year, was applauded by the state government with the cash reward of Rs. 46 lakh. The Government also gave the financial aid of Rs. 25 lakh for the 78th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammel held at Nashik.

WOMEN AND CHILD WELFARE

The state government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Addl. Chief

Secretary (Home) to control illicit business. The panel will look into the matters of rehabilitation of women and teenage girls released from prostitution. It will also assess the situation to control illegal human trafficking.

In a time-bound scrutiny drive 654 institutes were checked and necessary action was taken against the erring institutes.

The State Government made Fifth Pay Commission recommendations applicable to the Children Aid Society from 27th April 2005. With this all 291 employees of the Society will be benefited. The Society runs child reform homes for over 2,000 juvenile criminals in Mumbai.

The State Government accorded approval to 2238 additional Anganwadis in sensitive Adivasi areas. These areas are not covered by Integrated Child Welfare Scheme. Every Anganwadi will cover 100 to 500 Adivasis population living in small village cluster.

The State Government has formed Rajmata Jijau Mata – Bal Arogya Aani Poshan Mission to curb deaths of Adivasi Children due to malnutrition. New born babies to the children of the age of six will be taken care of by the mission.

The mission will also take care of pregnant women by guiding them on diet and providing proper vaccines. The mission will also give emphasis on the education of teen-age girls in order to bring down teen-age marriages.

The Government accorded approval to pension schemes for Anganwadi workers and volunteers. For the purpose welfare fund will be started for Anganwadi workers under integrated child welfare service scheme. Anganwadi worker / volunteer will have to contribute Rs.100 and Rs.50 respectively to the fund. In term after the retirement on completion of 20 years in service Anganwadi worker will get Rs.1000 and the volunteer will get Rs.500 per month as pension.

The State Government had constituted a fact-finding committee under the chairmanship of Dr.Abhay Bang on the matters related with death of Adivasi children due to malnutrition. The Government has accepted the report of the committee and started implementing recommendation of the panel through women and child welfare department.

The recommendations include measures to control teen-age marriage, education of would be mothers about their health and childcare including breast feeding.

Empowerment Of Women

The Government of Maharashtra declared its women policy in 2001. Under the policy it was made compulsory for Self local Government bodies to reserve their 5 per cent income for women empowerment. The amount if not spent will be carried forward in the next year as backlog.

Women counseling Centre

Centres for the counseling of women have been started in 10 police stations to curb injustice on women and children. United nation funds for women development, an international institute has funded these centres for the first three years. The Government has decided to fund these Centres from the forth year. A committee has been form under

the chairmanship of Addl. Chief Secretary (Home) to assess the working of these counseling Centres.

PUBLIC HEALTH, MEDICAL EDUCATION AND DRUGS

Super Specialty Hospital in Aurangabad

The Government of Maharashtra has approved up-gradation of Government Medical College and Hospital and allocated Rs. 29, 72, 90,000 for the purpose in two phases. Alongwith the upgradation, the medical college and hospital will get the status of Super Specialty Hospital. This will benefit Marathwada and Khandesh regions, as there is no such hospital at present.

Latur Medical College Development

The Government has given consent to construction work for the development of Latur Government Medical College and has sanctioned Rs 40.95 crore. The government has also given nod to create new post for the hospital.

Nanded Medical College to be Shifted

The government has approved shifting of Nanded Government Medical College to Vishnupuri for the want of more space for development. Rs 84.10 crore have been allocated for the purpose. The resolution to this effect has been sent to the Central Government.

Special Healthcare Centres for Nashik and Amaravati

The government has approved Special Health care Centres for Nashik and Amaravati. In last financial year Rs 5.80 crore were allocated for it. In the current year Rs. 7 crore more have been sanctioned

Special Family Welfare Scheme

The government launched the Special Family Welfare Scheme to implement the concept 'development for all, welfare for family', during 1st January to 31st March 2005.

Under the scheme 'Health for All' the government has approved 40 Primary Health Centres, 42 Rural Hospitals and 726 sub-centres for 2003-05. Under the scheme 772 ambulances have been made available. AIDS Advice Centre has been opened in every district. With the World Bank Aid 76 rural hospitals in the state have been upgraded. In 52 of them bed capacity has been increased to 50 from 30. In 24 hospitals bed capacity has been increased to 100 from 30.

Dr.Anandibai Joshi Puraskar

The State Government has decided to celebrate Women Health Day in Maharashtra on 26th February to commemorate the death anniversary of Dr.Anandibai Gopal Joshi, the first lady doctor of India. On this day individuals, workers, officers and institutes acting in the field of health and family welfare will be felicitated for their contributions.

Other decisions

The Government has formed mobile squads to assess the situation in adivasi areas to check malnutrition deaths.

The Government has also made applicable the Mumbai Nursing Act to gram panchayat area also. Where by nursing home to be open in gram panchayat areas will need to fulfill all necessary norms.

The Government has made available 750 new ambulances for primary health centres and rural hospitals to provide immediate health care.

The Government has raised the financial assistance for Government employees and their family members upto 90 per cent of the amount spend on contingency ailments.

The Government is running special drive for the eradication of leprosy and polio.

The Government has sent a proposal to the Central Ministry for health and family welfare to upgrade the facilities and infrastructure of Mumbai's Seth G.S. Medical College and K.E.M. Hospital to the level of National Centre for Medical Sciences. Financial aid of Rs.477 crore has been sought.

Activities of FDA

The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) department of the state has taken following measures in last year to control contamination and adulteration of milk and other essential things.

FDA did surprise spot-checking of milk supplying vehicles at check nakas and sent the vehicles carrying adulterated or substandard milk. It also gave surprise raids in slum areas to stop adulteration.

Raids were also made to check sale of adulterated Gutkha, Panmasala, edible oils, ghee etc.

In a special drive the FDA also ensured that chemist shops should employ pharmacists.

In accordance with the Central Government's instructions the FDA through special drive ensured that the pharmaceutical companies strictly adhere to the GMP norms. It also served notices to the erring companies.

The FDA in special check drive also took necessary legal action against the non-law abiding individuals and institutes.

The FDA played very important role after the floods in Mumbai in ensuring the supply of essential drugs and made available anti-leptosporis medicines to nip epidemic in the bud. It had started a special cell for the supply of the all sort of drugs. All pharmaceutical companies supplied necessary medicines at no cost.

The FDA also enforced the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Product Act and took action against the teen-agers for illegal consumption.

Food and Civil
Supplies and
Consumer Protection
Assured Kerosene Supply

Maharashtra State receives about 70 per cent of the requisite kerosene quota from the Government of India, every month. The kerosene, thus received, is distributed, almost in the same proportion, among all districts in the state. 'Assured Kerosene Scheme' ensures distribution of kerosene at all levels up to shop and actual card holder consumer. It also guarantees supply of kerosene, in specific proportion, to the consumer on any day of the month. Necessary orders for implementation of the scheme have been issued on August 5th, 2005.

All eligible families are assured, under the scheme, of getting 70 per cent of their permitted quota of kerosene, on any day of the concerned month in the specified fair price shop. In short, a family with permissible quota of , say, 10 liters of kerosene per month, is assured of getting at least 7 litres of kerosene, i.e. 70 per cent of the quota, on any day of the month, even the last day of the month. Availability of kerosene and its permissible proportion to each of the ration card holder in different areas of the State, i.e. Municipal corporation areas, other cities, or the rural areas etc. is to be announced through newspapers and local cables. The kerosene quota orders are made available for reference at all gram panchayats, local bodies, and elected representatives, to ensure transparency in kerosene distribution.

Antyodaya Food Grain Scheme

Poorest of the poor families in the state receive 35 Kgs of food grains at subsidized cost, such as Wheat- Rs. 2 per Kg. and rice - Rs. 3 per Kg. every month. So far 19.83 lakh beneficiaries have been selected under this scheme and in the third expansion of the scheme, number of beneficiaries is likely to be raised by 5.21 lakh more beneficiaries. Process of selection of beneficiary families is in progress. It will take the total number of beneficiary families in Maharashtra, under the scheme, to about 25 lakh.

Annapurna Scheme

The Annapurna scheme, sponsored by the Central Government, is implemented in Maharashtra, to the benefit of about 1.20 thousand persons. Destitute and old persons above the age of 65 years are provided with 10 Kg of food grains every month free of cost.

Annapurna and Antyodaya day

To ensure proper distribution of food grains at declared prices and weight to the end beneficiaries of Annapurna and Antyodaya schemes, either, the Second Tuesday in a month or the weekly market day is declared as Annapurna and Antyodaya Day, for distribution of food grains to the beneficiaries. Necessary instructions have been passed to ensure distribution of food grains under the scheme, in the presence of local community leaders or socially respectable persons or the members of the local vigilance committee. The beneficiary is allowed to receive food grains for a particular month on any subsequent day after the Annapurna or Antyodaya Day, if, for any reason the person has not availed of the facility.

Increase in the number of beneficiaries of Antyodaya Scheme

Every poor family, covered by the Antyodaya Scheme, is provided with wheat at a price of Rs. 2 per Kg. and rice at Rs. 3 per Kg. to a maximum amount of 35 Kg per family per

month. Targeted number of beneficiary families has been increased by 4 lakh 81 thousand, as the Central Government widened the scope of the scheme. Thus total number of beneficiaries under the scheme stands at 19 lakh 838 persons. Beneficiaries of the scheme include widows, handicapped, persons with incurable disease, aged over 60 years of age, landless farm labours, marginal farmers, potters, cobblers, carpenters and such other rural artisans, besides slum dwellers, daily wage earners, fruit and flower vendors, rag pickers, snake charmers and tribal families.

Distribution of food grains on coupons

Persons employed under the Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Food for Work (FFW) receive part of their wages in kinds.

Foodgrains are distributed to the beneficiary workers in exchange of food coupons through Fair Price Shops (FPS). A day in a week is fixed for distribution of food grains in exchange of coupons under the scheme. The day of distribution is publicized locally and actual distribution is made in the presence of members of the village level vigilance committee. Any coupon holder, for any reason, if, could not avail of his / her quota in a particular week, the person is permitted to receive the missed quota of food grains in the subsequent week on the declared day of distribution. Number of distribution days in a week could be more than one, depending upon the number of beneficiaries.

Free supply of food grains and kerosene to the flood affected families

In view of the heavy down pour and flood situation in the State after July 24, 2005, flood affected families were provided with 10 litres of kerosene and 20 Kg of food grains free of cost. A total of 13,000 Kilo litres of kerosene and 26,000 metric tons of food grains were supplied to the victim families free of cost, as announced by the State Government.

Detection of Bogus and Fake Ration Cards

A campaign has been taken up by the State Government to detect bogus and fake ration cards in the state. It is being implemented in three phases. Initially it will be taken up in all municipal corporation areas and district head quarter towns. Other municipal towns will be covered in second phase while the rural area will be covered in the third phase of the campaign.

All the ration card holders in a particular area will be provided with a form by their concerned Fair Price Shop Keepers. The form is to be filled in and returned to the respective FPS keeper. After scrutiny, those found eligible, will continue to get rationed articles. But, ration cards of those, who have either, not filled in and returned their forms or have not submitted necessary documents, would be suspended or cancelled. Special committees, with concerned District Collector as Chairman, have been formed in each district to decide upon the bogus and fake ration cards, if detected. There after supply of kerosene and other rationed articles would be restricted to only eligible families. ***

Rural Development and Water Conservation

Restructuring of minimum wages

to Gram Panchayat Employees and
increase in grant-in-aid

Minimum wages, announced by the Department of Industries, Energy and Labour, through a notification of 3rd July 1990, were made applicable to the employees of Gram Panchayats in the state. Many of these Gram Panchayats (GP) were unable to afford the payment of minimum wages to its employees. The Government, considering the fact, took a policy decision to make available 50 per cent of the expenditure on wages to the GPs as 'grant' with effect from January 2000. Maharashtra Government provided Rs.17.20 Crore annually on this account. Rates of these minimum wages were revised on March 16th 1999 through a notification. The GP employees and their representative unions as also the elected representatives have demanded payment of wages at the revised rates. The Government considered the demand holistically and decided to restructure the minimum wages rates in the Cabinet Meeting of July 6th 2005, as follows :

Zone – 1 (Population more than 15,000)	Current Rate Rs. 850	Revised Rate Rs. 1,800
Zone – 2 (Population 5,000 to 15,000)	Current Rate Rs. 770	Revised Rate Rs. 1,600
Zone – 3 (Population Less Than 5,000)	Current Rate Rs. 550	Revised Rate Rs. 1,400

The government has accorded approval to 50 per cent of additional recurring expenditure on account of the revision of wages as grant to the GPs to enable them to make necessary payments to the employees. Finance department is being pursued to make the necessary funds available.

Absorption of GP Employees into District Services Class -3 and 4

There had been a demand from the GP Employees' Unions as well as elected representatives to absorb GP Employees into the District Services Class - 3 and 4. The Then Minister for Rural Development had given an assurance to consider these demands. It was viewed that experienced personnel would be available to Zilla Parishads (ZP) for their Class-3 and 4 posts, if the demands by the employees' unions were accepted. Hence State Government accorded approval to absorb GP employees into ZP services in Class -3 and 4 posts subject to following conditions :

1) As and when class-3 and class-4 posts in the District Services are to be filled in by direct recruitment, 10 per cent of such posts should be filled in by recruiting GP Employees on the basis of service seniority.

2) GP employees should be appointed to the Class- 3 and Class-4 posts in accordance with their educational qualifications.

3) Upper age limit for the GP Employees should be 45 years.

4) No written or oral test would be conducted while appointing the GP Employees

5) GP employees would be required to pass language and computer examinations as applicable to the government employees.

6) A common service seniority list will be prepared for this purpose at district level for implementation of the decision, under the supervision of concerned Divisional Commissioner through Chief Executive Officer of respective ZP.

The decision entails certain amendments to Maharashtra Zilla Parishad District Services (Recruitment) Rules 1967. Draft revision rules are published in Maharashtra Government Gazette (Extra Ordinary) (EO. No. 161) part – 4 B dated 2nd July 2005.

Deductions in the salaries of GP Employees at 8.33 percent towards contributory PF

Gram Panchayats (GP) in Maharashtra are autonomous bodies according to Sec. 9 of the Mumbai Gram Panchayat Act 1958 and those are empowered to appoint necessary staff, penalize or terminate them. The GP staff is not entitled to salary or retirement benefits available to the ZP employees. The gratuity and contributory provident fund amount due to the retiring GP employee is paid from the corpus fund of the concerned GP. Various unions of GP employees were demanding since long to raise the employees' contribution to provident fund from 1/16. The Government considered the demand and accepted it. Necessary notification has been published in Maharashtra Government Gazette Extra Ordinary part – 4 B of April 8, 2005.

Accountable officer / employee for implementing Government Orders concerning services of Gram Panchayat Employees

Gram Panchayats [GP] are empowered to appoint or terminate its staff, but recently there had been complaints of misuse of the power delegated to GPs and injustice meted out to the employees. The Government had, from time to time, issued directive guidelines to GPs through Zilla Parishads [ZP] and Panchayat Samitees [PS], concerning following issues :

- 1] Payment of minimum wages to GP employees
- 2] Payment of minimum wages through cheques
- 3] Deduction of contribution to Provident Fund from wages of the employees
- 4] Application of Gratuity Scheme to the employees
- 5] Appointment , suspension, and termination etc. of employees of GP.
- 6] Service book of GP employees.
- 7] Grant of permitted leave to GP employees.
- 8] Organization of meetings with office – bearers of concerned union and federation to resolve complaints of GP employees.

These directive guidelines are, once again, brought to the notices of all concerned and following officers and employees are declared responsible for meticulous implementation of these guidelines :

- A] Deputy Chief Executive Officer [CEO] of concerned ZP at district level
- B] Block Development Officer [BDO] of concerned Panchayat Samitee [PS] at Taluka level.
- C] Village Development Officer [VDO] / Gram Sevak [GS] at Gram Panchayat level.

These officers / employees would be held responsible for implementation of these guidelines, individually as well as collectively, and will be liable for disciplinary action for dereliction in duty. The CEO, being in charge of the district administration, will also be held responsible in this regard. These instructions have been sent to all concerned through a Government Circular GPD 2005/C. No. 14/PR-5 Dated 22 March, 2005.

Traveling Allowance [TA] to Members of ZP and PS for LDP

It is the policy of the Democratic Front [DF] Government in the State to strengthen Panchayati Raj system in Maharashtra. In its pursuit, the government has transferred many of its programmes and schemes to ZPs, afresh. Various groups / communities in the society are persuaded to participate in the working of Panchayati Raj institutions and are given an opportunity for it by providing reservations to them. Resultantly, even a poorest person in the society gets elected to any of the Panchayati Raj institutions and it makes these elected representatives to travel frequently in their constituencies to supervise the developmental works. The ZP members are entitled to get a traveling allowance of Rs.400 per month to tour their respective constituencies, but the PS members are not paid any traveling allowance. It was felt, in view of the price-rise in the market, the traveling allowance, currently paid to these elected representatives, was absolutely insufficient and hence, it was decided by the government to raise the traveling allowance to ZP members to Rs. 1,000 per month and to Rs. 500 to the PS members per month. It will benefit 1753 members of 33 ZPs and 3,204 members of Panchayat Samitees [PS]. An annual expenditure on this count is estimated to Rs. 2,10,36,000 for ZP members and Rs. 1,92,24,000 for PS members.

Elections to ZP and PS in Maharashtra

There are 33 ZPs and 351 PS in Maharashtra and elections to these institutions are held by the State Election Commission. Elections of the office bearers, such as Presidents and Vice – Presidents as well as Chair – Persons of various subject committees of Zilla Parishads and the Chair – Persons and Deputy Chair – Persons of Panchayat Samitees, however, are held by the State Government. These elections were held by secret ballot method until February 2005; but since then the method is changed, by a notification of 15th February 2005, to raising of hand by the voter member. A way is paved for use of electronic voting machines, similar to the Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections, in the elections to the Panchayati Raj institutions [rural local bodies] as the Maharashtra Act 20 of 2005 has been passed.

Water Conservation work gets momentum

Maharashtra Government has stressed upon water conservation work in the state through Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Water and Soil Conservation movement. Various useful works, with joint participation of the Government and the People, are taken up and those include construction of Vanrai Bunds [embankment], recharging of wells, contour laying, desiltation and repairs or renovations of percolation tanks, village tanks, nalla buds etc., completion of watershade projects, gorge filling, forming of water use societies for minor irrigation projects, construction of over head water tanks and storage tanks. Projects costing more than Rs. 950 crore have been completed under the programme, out of which works of more than Rs. 340 crore were completed with people's participation. Most of the water conservation work has been completed through EGS, Sampoorna Grameen Rojagar Yojana [comprehensive rural employment scheme], and food for work scheme. A large number of Vanrai bunds, village tanks, forest tanks have been completed and their results are now be seen.

Development of fallow and waste land

An emphasis is given on developing the fallow and waste land in the state through integrated watershade development as well as rural sustenance mission programmes. About 10 lakh hectares of fallow and waste land could be developed in next 5 years, it was announced by H E the Governor of Maharashtra at the joint session of state legislature. Till

date 39 integrated wasteland development projects have been taken up in 30 districts at a cost of Rs. 165 crore.

Wasteland development programme is being implemented in joint participation of local people and non – governmental organizations [NGO] with Central Government and different departments of State Government. It will help greatly in transforming the rural area, while agriculture development will get an impetus as opportunities for employment and self employment would be available to young unemployed there. ***

Finance Department

Maharashtra Government has undertaken various ambitious programmes to strengthen its financial management using available latest technology. Computers have a major role to play in it. 'E-pay-bill' is one of such programmes taken up by the state government and is first of its kind in the country, which will prepare computerized pay– bills of government employees. As a prelude to the computerized pay – bills, a programme 'Sevarth' is developed. and all necessary information regarding all government offices is fed through it into the server, which helps in preparing pay– bills. Once, the experiment of pay – bills succeeds, it will be extended to other bills also.

'Treasury net' is a programme prepared for treasuries in the state, as part of their modernization and is put into use in Mumbai, Pune and Aurangabad. These programmes will help in effective control of state finances.

The State Government is also contemplating to pay salaries of its officers and employees, alike, through banks and at least 15 banks have signed an agreement with the government under the scheme. All withdrawing and disbursing officers of the state government have been asked to open accounts in these banks and the government employees will also have to open an account in one of these 15 banks. Cash transaction tax was deducted from the amount withdrawn for payment of salaries. It will now be saved as salaries will be paid through banks.

More than 4.50 lakh State – Government Pensioners receive their pensions, every month, through 33 treasuries and pay and accounts office in Mumbai. Computer services are used for payment of pensions too. Electronic Clearing Service [ECS] is used in the cities of Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, and Thane for payment of pensions.

Online Lottery

Online Lottery was started in Maharashtra on July 14, 2005. The first draw of this lottery – the Megalotto, was announced on the same day. Martin Lottery Agency has been appointed as wholesale agent and an estimated annual revenue of Rs. 25 crore is expected from the lottery. The Government also expects a profit of Rs. 12.50 crore in the first six months of the online lottery since the lottery started in July 2005.

Computerization of Sales Tax Department

Computerisation of Sales Tax department has been approved on the basis of 'Build, Own, Use and Renovate' under the policy of privatization. It is a 5 year project costing about Rs. 142 crore and implemented by Electronics Corporation of India, Limited [ECIL]. Computerisation of Sales Tax Department would help in implementation of VAT.

Increase in the Dearness Allowance to the State Government Employees
Maharashtra Government has taken a policy decision to pay dearness allowance to its employees at par with Central Government, who

has announced in July 2004 and January 2005 an increase of 14 and 17 per cent in the dearness allowance to Central Government Employees. Following the suit, the State Government too, announced through the GR of 24th March 2004 and 14th July 2005, a raise of 14 and 17 per cent in the dearness allowance to its employees and all others who are eligible.

Special Extra – Ordinary Leave Scheme
gets Extension

The Special Extra Ordinary Leave scheme has been made applicable to the State Government employees since 2002 – 2003, as part of the economy measures. Since there is good response from the employees, the scheme is extended till 31st December 2005. Till 31st December 2004, 130 employees availed of this scheme, resulting in savings of Rs. 14,92,79,184. There are 41 employees, who availed of the leave for 1 year, 22 availed for 2 years and 12 for 3 years. While only one employee availed of this special leave for 4 years, 54 employees availed it for 5 years.

Value Added Sales Tax in the State

VAT, i.e. Value Added Tax system is implemented in 21 state of India including Maharashtra since 1st April 2005. Maharashtra is one of the prominent states to submit draft VAT and implement it.

VAT system is expected to make current tax system easier and transparent and provide benefits and protection not only to the traders and businessmen but also to the consumers. It will also help in increasing the state revenue. The new VAT system entails deductions of not only taxes on raw material but also taxes on previous purchases. It will also reduce the burden of turnover tax, surcharge on Sales Tax, additional surcharge, special additional tax etc. Besides, Central Sales Tax will be withdrawn in phases. In short, unification of various taxes will bring in rationalization of taxes and reduction in their incidences. Tax assessment would be different than the one in vogue and will be more transparent and easy.

Implementation of VAT at had become necessary to end the taxation war among states and bring in rationalization in sales tax rates by charging lowest equivalent tax on salable goods. An effort is made to strike balance between necessary resemblance in formulation of VAT and federal flexibility which is the result of collective efforts of the state governments.

‘Uniform Floor Rate’ is fixed on various items amongst different states as first step towards new and easier tax system. The states are allowed to fix tax rates equal to the uniform floor rates [UFR] or higher for all taxable goods, but not less than UFR. While UFR stands at the levels of 0, 4 and 12 per cent; the State of Maharashtra, with an exception of 0 and 20 per cent, implemented the same from 1st January 2000. The VAT might increase the state revenue after some years, but initially it was expected to cause deficit in the revenue collection. In view of this fact, the Government of India has agreed to compensate the states 100 per cent for the first year of implementation, 75 per cent in the 2nd year and 50 per cent in the third year.

A simple and easier method of refund of tax is in practice in Maharashtra for a long time, under which payment is made through banks. State Bank of India [SBI] and other nationalized banks are conferred with treasury status, who accept tax payments from the assessee. Use of electronic method for payment of taxes in the days to come, is under consideration of the State Government.

Financial Accountability Bill passed

The Financial Accountability and Budgetary Management Act, 2005, was passed in April 2005. Necessary rules under the act are being formulated.

Salient features of the Act are :

1. To reach Revenue surplus by 2008 – 09
2. To reduce financial deficit in phases
3. To fix annual target of revenue and financial deficit
4. Prepare annual report of economic progress and financial strategy of the State.
5. Prepare a special report on budget and employee strength and their salaries in the state government, public undertakings and state aided organizations.

Raising of Loans

According to the notification published in the Maharashtra State Gazette on 11th May 2005 and 9th June, as instructed by the Reserve Bank of India [RBI], the State Government has raised an open market loan of Rs. 595.3470 crores on May 19th and 20th 2005, of Rs. 407.3900 crore on June 15th 2005 and of RS. 290 crore on September 28th 2005, all totaling to Rs. 1292.7370 crore.

New Contributory Pension Scheme

In order to reduce financial burden on the Government Treasury on account of pensionary benefits and also in accordance with the economy policy of the government, it was decided in the cabinet meeting of 5th October 2005, to introduce the new contributory pension scheme, on the lines of Central Government, for those appointed newly in the State Government services on or after 1st November 2005. ***

Planning Department

Priority to Development
of Backward Regions

A review committee of all concerned and chaired by Minister for Finance and Planning, has been appointed to review the actual expenditure on development of backward regions and availability of funds in the annual State plan, for reducing the backlog, as directed by the HE the Governor. The committee reviews the expenditure and availability of funds every quarter. The Cabinet meeting of 21st April 2005 decided to grant extension to all the statutory development boards till April 2010.

Development of Marathwada

An approval was given, by the cabinet meeting held at Aurangabad on 22nd February 2005, to the expenditure of Rs. 3,242.33 crore for the development works in Marathwada. The development work included a compensation of Rs. 2.70 crore to the villagers of Devdhanora, Chilwadi and Nandgaon in Osmanabad district on account of fire; shifting of Government Medical College and Hospital from Nanded to Vishnupuri- Rs. 84.10 crore; conversion of Government Medical College and Hospital at Aurangabad into a Super Specialty Hospital and its upgradation-Rs.29.73 crore; creation of 225 posts in the Government Medical College, Aurangabad -Rs.2.09 crore; construction of Government Medical College and Hospital at Latur-Rs. 40.95 crore; creation of posts in various categories at Government Medical College at Latur-Rs.1.21 crore; for various projects in Marathwada including gorge filling projects at different stages, pending cases of land acquisition, irrigation projects in tribal regions;

maintenance and repairs of irrigation projects; series of 11 barrages on River Godavari; barrages on River Manjara; repairs of Kolhapur type weirs etc.–Rs. 1192 crore; celebrations of Tri–Centenary of Nanded Gurudwara–Rs.817 crore; implementation of integrated dairy development programme in 8 districts of Marathwada–Rs.8 crore; and development of 1,567 km long roads in Marathwada – Rs. 1064.55 Crore

Integrated Development Programme
for Marathwada And merger of Nanded
railway division in Central Railway.

The cabinet meeting held at Aurangabad on 20th and 21st September, 2005, approved an integrated development programme for Marathwada costing Rs. 2,671 crore. It also passed a resolution urging the Central Government to include the Nanded Railway Division with Central Railway.

Plan for Rs. 817 crore Guru Da Gaddi Tri – Centenary celebrations : The most revered Sikh Guru, Guru Govind Singh established the Guru Grantha Sahib [the Holy Book] at Nanded Gurudwara. The event completes 300 years in October 2008, hence a tri – centenary celebrations of Guru Da Gaddi would be organized in Dipavali 2008 at Nanded. Over 25 lakh, domestic and foreign Sikh pilgrims and tourists are expected to visit Nanded city during these celebrations. A Rs. 817 crore plan for providing facilities other than basic amenities, has been drawn for Nanded which was approved by the cabinet meeting on February 22, 2005. The State Government has provided Rs. 11.99 crore in the 2005 – 06 budget for this purpose while demanding 75 per cent funds for the approved plan from the Central Government.

A development plan of Rs. 101.68 crore for pilgrimage centre Pandharpur has been approved by the state government in view of large number pilgrims converging at Pandharpur, 4 times in a year, for yatra, especially for Ashadhi and Kartiki Ekadashis, when more than 10 lakh devotees arrive there. Such massive gatherings strain the civic amenities in the town. The development plan provides for various facilities and amenities at Pandharpur. A GR in this regard has already been issued on May 26, 2005. Moreover Rs. 5.50 crore work of KT weir has been completed. The 2005 – 06 state budget provided Rs. 13 crore for development plan.

Local Development Programme [LDP]

The November 2004 State Assembly elections returned 139 new members among total 288 and they were provided with computers and laptops instantaneously and necessary local development fund [MLA Fund] was also made available to them as per norms. The dedicated fund for the year 2003-04 was made available in 2004 – 05.

The DF government decided to reconstitute the committee for approval of works under local development programme of MLAs. It also approved of spending of unspent funds under LDP of the year 2003 – 04, during the year 2004 – 05.

Approval was given to take up construction of minimum 1 Km long road under LDP for MLA, to connect village/ hamlet [vasti], tanda, pada, etc. to main road. A decision, in the interest of common man was taken to provide computerized systems for conducting Learning License Tests in the Government Transport offices, under LDP for MLA.

In order to develop each constituency equally, under the LDP for MLA, a policy decision was taken by the DF government that if any constituency remains without representation for reasons such as resignation or death etc., necessary funds would be made available to the maximum limit in a particular year, after the MLA is elected.

An approval was granted to purchase of books and other library material / furniture for government
a recognized public library from the LDP for MLA, to the extent of 50 per cent of the grant given by the education department to that particular library, but not more than Rs. 10 lakh.

The Government has extended the time limit till 30th November 2005, for purchase of CDs, produced privately, but approved by the Maharashtra State Board for Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and CDs produced by Balchitravani, Pune, from the LDP or MLA fund, to supply the same to schools, under the revised Class project scheme. It intended for using information technology in the school administration, to upgrade the quality of school education and to assist the learning and teaching process in the schools.

The DF Government also has taken a policy decision to construct community halls / auditoriums of a particular standard and design under LDP for MLAs.

In view of the particular geographical conditions and recurring scarcity condition in the state, the government decided to prioritise 'rain water harvesting' at District Collectorate building complex, government rest houses and residential buildings of District Collectors, under LDP for MLAs to raise the ground water table through a variety of water conservation schemes.

Employment Guarantee Scheme [EGS]

Many rules and norms of EGS are relaxed in view of scarcity conditions prevailing in the state.

- * Limits on road construction works was relaxed from 30 per cent to 50 per cent.
- * Single purpose work in watershade development was approved.
- * The green, yellow and red zones were delimited as necessitated for generating employment during scarcity conditions.
- * Construction of agricultural tank in a private farm land was approved in a scarcity hit district.
- * Taking up of compartment and contour bunding work in a private agriculture land allowed.
- * Road construction work can be started on a private land after obtaining a working Charter of donation of the land on a RS. 20 Stamp Paper.
- * Desiltation of tanks permitted.
- * Construction of 5 wells per scarcity hit taluka was permitted for drinking water purposes.
- * Road widening work was also permitted during scarcity conditions.
- * Use of human as well as animal labour was permitted during scarcity conditions.
- * Special repairs and renovations of canals and distributary trenches under EGS were permitted.
- * Construction of continuous contour trenches, earthen nalla bunding, straightening of nallas, agricultural tank, construction and repairs of dhal, pady and compartment bunding, open air trenches for developing of saline lands were permitted under EGS.
- * Construction and repairs of bodi in Bhandara, Gondiya, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts.
- * Mazgi work in tribal talukas of Mokhada and Jawhar in Thane district.
- * Construction of storage tanks for wild life in the forest land of 15 tribal majority districts.

* Circular trenches around bamboo under EGS

* Following heavy downpour in the state in July and August 2005, needy labourers were provided with work under EGS and Food for Work.

Water Resources

21 billion CFt Water for Marathwada

The Krishna – Marathwada project, Bhima Stabilization project and supportive new proposals in Satara District are to be unified to update the comprehensive project report, in accordance with the revised water planning. The State Cabinet had resolved to assess economic feasibility of the project before according administrative approval in consultation with the department of finance and planning.

The cabinet meeting held at Aurangabad on 21st September 2005, decided to grant separate administrative approval to the Krishna– Marathwada Project within Krishna– Bhima stabilization project.

The entire water, earmarked for usage in the Krishna–Bhima Project, is to be made available from the Krishna–Bhima Project itself. It is, therefore, necessary to start and complete the construction of both the projects simultaneously. Since originally proposed amount of water to be diverted from Krishna Basin was revised from 95 Billion CFt to 115 Billion CFt, revision of administratively approved Krishna– Bhima Stabilization Project and an administrative approval to the revised project has been necessitated. Hence the government decided to grant separate but simultaneous approvals to the Krishna-Marathwada Project and Revised Bhima Stabilization Project.

Rs. 1192 crore for Marathwada
Irrigation Projects

The Government decided to sanction Rs.1192 crore for various irrigation projects in Marathwada region for 4 years during the years 2004–05 to 2007–08. The funds to be made available in the year 2004–05 are Rs.200 crore; in the year 2005–06 are Rs. 414 Crore; during 2006–07 are Rs. 316 Crore and in 2007–08 will be Rs.262 Crore.

Accordingly, Rs. 200 Crore were made available for Marathwada projects during 2004–05, and 32 projects of 15,041 Hectare irrigation capability were completed from these funds. Balance payments for the 39 projects of the MKKVM were also made.

With the completion of gorge filling of 24 projects, storage capacity of 80.09 MCMtr has been created. Similarly, among the MKKVM projects, gorge filling of one project is completed, while that of two is completed partially, thereby creating an irrigation facility for 1,113 Hectares and a storage of 8.45 MCMtr. Tenders for 11 barrages were invited and 5 of them were opened. Process of finalization of these tenders is in progress. Tenders for 4

barrages on River Manjara are also invited, while plans for remaining barrages are received and preparation of budget for them is in progress.

150 New Minor Irrigation Tanks

It was decided to start work on 150 minor irrigation projects in all 8 districts of Marathwada region. Funds of Rs. 10 Crore would be made available for this work during the year. A revolving Fund of Rs. 100 Crore is to be provided to the Divisional Commissioner for making timely payments for land acquisition for various irrigation projects in the region. The fund will be recouped as payments are made from it. This system will ensure speedy payment for land acquired. Additional Rs. 225 Crore would be made available for other irrigation projects in the state.

Water Conservation and EGS work for Supplementary Irrigation

There are restrictions on taking up water conservation work in the catchment areas of an irrigation project. There is, however, no possibility of reaching irrigation water in the fag end areas of an irrigation project in the near future. But, such region fall in the catchment areas of the project and water conservation programmes and EGS works are banned there. The Government, after due consideration, has now permitted water conservation and EGS works in these areas recently.

Accordingly necessary GR was issued on September 6, 2005. Thus, water conservation and EGS works are permitted in the final one third of the catchment area of completed large and medium irrigation projects and in the half of the last catchment areas of the minor irrigation projects. Necessary orders have been issued, in accordance with the GR, to take up work under EGS by the District Collector and work other than EGS under water conservation by the rural development and water conservation departments.

Higher and Technical Education

The State Government has approved Provident Fund Scheme for the employees appointed to the government approved 350 teaching and non-teaching posts of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University [YCMOU] on the condition that provident fund amount of Rs. 4 crore lying with YCMOU plus an annual sum of Rs. 24 lakh should be transferred to the State Government. An agreement for this purpose is to be signed between YCMOU and the Government.

The State Government has provided Rs. 5 crore to YCMOU for constructing an Art Gallery at Nashik.

Amaravati University has been provided with Rs. 50 lakh to set up Dr. Shrikant Jichkar Memorial Research Centre for Indian History and Culture. Similarly, Shri Shivaji University, Kolhapur is provided with Rs. 50 lakh to start Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Centre for Studies in Marath History.

The recently established Solaupr University has been provided with Rs. 2 Crore for creating infrastructural facilities.

The Nagpur University has been renamed, by a notification dated 4th May 2005, as 'Rashtra Sant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, in

recognition of the variety of social work done by the social reformist saint, in the fields of education, physical training, de-addiction, Bhoodan etc.

By another notification of May 4th, 2005, University of Amaravati has been renamed as Sant Gadage Baba Amaravati University, in recognition of his work, especially in the field of eradication of blind faith and creating public awareness for clean and beautiful village.

Public Libraries

Audit Grant to Government
recognized Libraries

The State Government has doubled the amount of audit grant to the government recognized public libraries in the state from the fiscal year 2004–05. It will help in strengthening of library movement also development of the individual libraries. It also made it possible to raise salaries of the library staff substantially.

An audit grant amounting to Rs. 35 crore 2 lakh was approved for 4,418 non-plan government recognized libraries in 35 districts in the state. Besides, 1099 Government recognized libraries have been provided with audit grant under plan expenditure and 351 new public libraries were granted government recognition and a grant, all amounting to Rs. 1,16,27,000. Thus the Government approved Rs. 36.18 crore towards audit grant to plan and non- plan 5,868 government recognized libraries during the year 2004-05. It included 50 percent salary grant and 50 per cent non-salary expenditure grants.

More government district libraries opened

There are Government District Libraries in 16 of the total 35 districts in the state. The State Government has accorded approval to establish Government District Libraries in 15 more districts. Sixteen more technical and non- technical posts have been created in the year 2004 – 05 for government district libraries in Beed, Nanded, Satara and Mumbai City districts, with 4 posts for each of these libraries.

Vocational Education and Training

Temporary trainers to be accommodated in permanent service

Major Earth quake and tremors thereafter, on 30th September 1993, in some of the districts in Maharashtra had caused heavy losses to the life and property. The severity of the natural calamity was felt more in the districts of Latur, Osmanabad, Solapur and Satara districts. Various measures were taken to face the calamity, which included repairs and reconstruction of houses and buildings in these four districts. As a part of the Quake Rehabilitation and Crash Training Programme, 152 persons from the region, who had passed MCVC courses in building maintenance and related vocational training, were appointed as Temporary Trainers on Daily Wage or Clock Hour basis. An approval was granted in the Cabinet Meeting held at Aurangabad on September 21, 2005, to these 152 trainers in the permanent Government service.

These 152 candidates will be absorbed in the vacancies of Trainers / Instructors, Clerk–Typist and Peons, depending upon availability, keeping in view their educational qualifications. They will be absorbed in the government services through the concerned District Collector as and when the vacancies occur under

Directorate of Vocational Education and Training or the government establishment. The decision, while benefiting the 152 candidates, will cause additional financial burden of about Rs. 180.70 lakh to the Government. **

Housing Department

Campaign against illegal hutments

A campaign has been taken up in accordance with the law, passed unanimously, by the state legislature, to demolish unauthorized and illegal hutments in Mumbai. Accordingly, illegal hutments constructed after 1995, are being demolished. So far 86,000 hutments have been razed clearing about 300 acres of land. It is the responsibility of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority [MMRDA] to protect and preserve the cleared land except for the land in possession of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai [MCGM].

Stringent action will be taken against a person instigating to construct illegal hutments. Moreover the concerned officer will also be held responsible if any encroachment takes place on the cleared land, which is to be used for providing civic amenities. The eligible hutment dwellers of prior to 1995 have been issued photo passes while a High Level Committee has been appointed under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to decide upon policy regarding hutments constructed after 1st January 1995.

Reconstruction of Cessed Old Buildings

An ambitious programme to reconstruct all dilapidated and cessed old buildings on the island city of Mumbai is to be taken up. It will benefit more than 20 lakh tenants residing in these buildings over the years.

Single window system is to be pressed into action so that all necessary No Objection Certificates [NOC] and other relevant documents required for reconstruction of these buildings, will be issued at one single place. Normally the owner of the building becomes a stumbling block in the process. In order to remove the hurdle, an incentive is given to the land lord by way of a flat admeasuring 225 square feet or 10 percent of net profit area, if, the concerned land owner transfers ownership to MHADA.

The tenants on the master list will be rehabilitated in the flats that will become available as a result of this scheme and some of the flats will be sold in open market. Funds received from it would be used for the purpose of reconstruction of these buildings. Once rehabilitated in these ownership flats, concerned person will be restricted from resale of the flat within 10 years. Necessary land will be acquired within one year, with appropriate amendments to the MHADA Act. A GR in this regard has been issued on 1st June, 2005.

Afzulpurkar Committee Report
on old buildings in Suburbs

Recommendations of the Afzulpurkar Committee regarding repairs and reconstruction of old and dilapidated rented buildings in Suburban Mumbai have been accepted by the government, it was decided in the cabinet meeting. A task force is to be appointed under the chairmanship of the Municipal Commissioner/ Additional Municipal Commissioner for implementation of these recommendations.

This decision will benefit about 5 lakh residents of about 10,000 buildings in the suburbs and extended suburbs of Mumbai.

There are 64,854 buildings in suburban Mumbai out of which 19,032 buildings are rented and 45,822 are Cooperative Housing Societies. Half of the rented

buildings belong to the MHADA. It was decided regarding remaining nearly 10,000 privately owned buildings, that, -

1. Since number of rented buildings in the suburbs of Mumbai is less than other buildings, terms and conditions applicable to the cessed buildings in the island city of Mumbai should not be made applicable here.

2. Buildings in the suburbs are damaged due illmentainance and unauthorized constructions. Besides there has been negligence towards proper documents regarding ownership of the land and buildings, soil testing, protection and strengthening of the construction etc. To avoid such negligence in future, binding should be on the developer of these properties to appoint proper licensed and qualified architect and other staff, who would be held responsible for the construction.

3. Certification by the structural engineer regarding strength and proper condition of the building will be made compulsory and a panel of engineers will be appointed to issue the certificate. The panel will be revised every two years. Necessary amendments to BMC act will be made for this purpose.

4. Co-operative society act will also be suitably amended in view of the working of housing societies, various funds , recovery of arrears, etc.

5. Insuring of the cooperative housing societies for safety of the building and also the residents and their properties will be made compulsory.

6. The developer of the rented properties in the suburbs should bear all expenses and the developer will get an incentive FSI to a maximum of 2.

About 85 per cent of these buildings and its residents would be benefited by this arrangement.

7..Residents and tenants in the building will get flats in the new building in ownership and free of cost.

8. Original tenants of the buildings will be charged property tax by telescopic method as in the case of rehabilitate slum dwellers.

9. To ensure exact number of beneficiaries and avoid increase in the number of tenants while reconstructing the building, a cut off line is decided as 23rd November 2000, which is the date of submission of the report.

10. Development Rules will be suitably amended to develop Gavthan areas in Mumbai.

Amendment to the Maharashtra

Ownership of Flats act

The Cabinet had decided to effect amendment to Maharashtra Ownership of Flats Act 1963. The amendments provide for stringent action against promoter and the developer if any of them breaks the provisions of the act. The developer could be barred for construction in future.

The amended provisions are :

1] Competent Authority would be the District Deputy Registrar of Cooperative societies or an equivalent. Other officers would be appointed as ‘Competent Authority ‘ for concerned local areas.

2] Amendments are made for effective handing over of the building , so that the promoter would held responsible for submitting copy of letter of hand over to the competent authority. In case of non submission of the handing over letter, the Housing Society would be entitled to demand notional handing over letter.

3] The promoter breaking the provisions of the law, can be sentenced to jail for 1 to 5 years and fined upto Rs.50,000. A bill to confer judicial status to the competent authority an amendment bill is tabled in the State Assembly on 23rd July, 2005.

Inquiry into the collapse of Sadaf Manzil

Shri K. S. Jangade, Chief Engineer, PWD, will inquire into the incidents of house collapse – Sadaf Manzil at Nagpada and Lilavati Gulabchand Building at Dhobi Talao, who will submit his report within three months to the government. The Inquiry officer has been appointed on September 2, 2005. A criminal case has been filed against the land lord and a show cause notice has been issued to the contractor S R construction and the Architect Mukund Dakshini. ***

Revenue and Forest Department

Maharashtra has about 21 per cent of forest cover and it is decided to increase it to about 33 per cent within next 5 years. The Forest department has taken following long term and people oriented decisions to achieve the target :-

* Joint Forest Management Committees comprising of villages and villagers as well as local organizations, would be formed in villages bordering the forests, to increase the forest wealth. Such Joint Forest management Committees have been formed, so far, in 9,000 villages out of 15,000 villages bordering forests. It will help increasing forest land in a disciplined manner which will benefit residents and villages as well.

* To inculcate love for nature, especially the forest and wild life, Eco Tourism is conceptualized and 56 places have been identified to implement the programme. Sanjay Gandhi National Park, skirting Mumbai, has invaluable Nature-Treasure, which hardly any of the nature lovers in Mumbai know. Eco Tourism will provide an opportunity to see the Nature's wealth in real life and spend few moments with it. Sant Tukaram Vangram Yojana (STVY) is another scheme to be implemented to set the forest development programme rolling. Awards have been instituted for villages doing major work for forest development.

* Non-vegetarian food, consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages and smoking has been banned in all departmental forest resorts and guest houses, only to preserve the Nature's wealth and enjoy its. It will also help in preventing poaching and killing of wild animals. Gorewada, near Nagpur, the Second Capital of Maharashtra, has been selected to set up a zoo with international norms and standards. Nagpur Improvement Trust would actively participate in this Rs. 50 Crore project.

* Maharashtra has 21 per cent of forest covered area and 55 per cent of this forest land belongs to Vidarbha region alone. Head Quarters of the Forest Department has been shifted to Nagpur with a view to concentrate upon managing this vast forest area.

* Since many of the stringent rules and regulations of the forest department have been relaxed, various irrigation projects are cleared and are at various stages of implementation. Many of the long pending small and medium irrigation projects could be implemented now, as the state forest department has been empowered to decide upon forest land admeasuring up to 1 Hectare.

* Rationalization of Sale and purchase of bamboo and Tendu patta (Tendu leaves) has proved beneficial to the tribal who depend upon these forest produce. A stress has been given on production of Ayurvedic Medicines and tribal are incorporated in the scheme. It will help in preservation and production of rare medicinal plants.

* It is decided to increase production of saplings so that large tracts of fallow and barren land could be brought under forestation, besides increasing the revenue of forest department and Forest Development Corporation. Large number of forestation and plantation related works are taken up under Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGC) to increase the forest cover of the land.

* Reconstitution of Forest Regions, Zones and Ranges in Nagpur, Chandrapur (North), Thane and Dhule is in progress. It will speed up work of the forest department in satisfactory and rationalized manner. Recently concluded Wild Life Census in the State observed an increase in the population of tiger and leopards. It will prove helpful to the increase of forest land in the State.

* Computerization of land records (Saat-Baaraa) is completed and issuing of necessary certificates-Saat- Baaraa Utara-has begun. It is possible now, to provide a computerized copy of land record to who ever requires it.

* Mumbai High Court has upheld State Government decision to return the farmlands to the participatory cultivators. Distribution of such land under cultivation has therefore, been taken up.

Pay scales for Talathees on par
with Gram sevaks

In view of the nature of work of the talathees, it was decided to provide them pay scales similar to the Gram Sevaks with effect from January 1st 2004. Talathees, at present receive Rs. 4900, in accordance with the Fifth Pay Commission, while the Gram Sevaks are in the pay scale of Rs. 4000 – Rs. 6000. ***

Urban Development Department

MRDA

Mithi River Development Authority, (MRDA) under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister has been formed on August 19, 2005, following a Government Resolution (GR).

Two meetings of MRDA were also held so far. Various Study – Groups were appointed in the first meeting. An interim report on the issue is expected by November 15th 2005, while final report is to be submitted to the Government by March 2006. It was decided, however, in the second meeting of the MRDA, that without waiting for these reports, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) should go ahead with the ‘Brimstowad’ report implementation.

MUIP and MUTP

- a) There are about 22,575 affected people under the MUTP, while 13,000 persons have been rehabilitated so far and remaining project affected people would be rehabilitated within next couple of months.
- b) There are a total of 35,000 project affected persons under the MUIP. Till date 2439 project affected persons are rehabilitated and 3261 more will be rehabilitated after the District Collector fixes norms. ***

Tribal Development

Scholarships to Scheduled Tribe students for education in foreign countries

Scholarships are granted to the tribal i e Scheduled Tribes (ST) students, pursuing studies in foreign universities to cover higher education expenses. Under the scheme, 10 at foreign Universities, ST students, who have obtained admissions to graduate / post graduate courses, are provided scholarships.

Sustenance (Khawatee) loans

Rs. 55 Crore have been provided for Khawatee (sustenance)loan programme during the year 2005–06, for an estimated 1,81,000 tribal beneficiaries.

Prevention of malnutrition and child deaths

a) Rajmata Jijau Child Health and Nutrition Mission (RJCHNM), first of its kind in the Country, has been set up in Maharashtra. The mission will co-ordinate, mainly, with health and tribal departments and various other state government agencies at divisional, district and primary health centre levels.

b) Melghat Pattern is being implemented in 15 districts in the tribal region. A pregnant tribal woman is provided Rs. 400 in cash and medicines worth Rs. 400. About 11,000 ‘Pada’ workers are appointed at a monthly honorarium of Rs. 300. There is a stress on providing special health care to the mothers and children at high risk levels. Mobile units with senior doctors are pressed into service. ***

Employment and Self Employment

e – Chawadi for more employment

The Government has decided to implement ‘e – Chawadi’ project to take benefits of information technology (IT) to the rural regions in the state and also to provide employment to the educated unemployed youth in the rural Maharashtra. The project is expected to provide employment to nearly 20,000 rural youth in next 3 years. The e-Chawadi project will facilitate farmers and cultivators in the rural regions of the state to sale their products on internet, receive information about various government schemes and projects, weather news, and even computerised horoscopes. Any unemployed youth with working knowledge of computer operations can be benefited. A couple of unemployed educated youth could be selected from each of the villages to set up information kiosks costing about Rs. 75,000. The

selected youth would be provided with bank loans upto Rs. 50,000 and a part of the balance amount could be government subsidy, while remaining money is to be raised as own capital.

The 'e – Chawadi' can be used to know the market rate of a farm product on internet, seek guidance from an expert, learn computer operations and fill in application forms for employment. The scheme will help the people in three sectors i. e. e–governance, e–commerce, and e–learning.

Co-operation and Textile

Maharashtra Government procured 211.65 lakh Quintals of Cotton during the season of year 2004-05 through Maharashtra State Cotton Growers Marketing Federation [MSCGMF] at the rate of Rs. 2,500 per Quintal. 411 Cotton Procurement Centres were opened in the State during that season. The State Government will procure cotton again, through MSCGMF during the season of 2005-06 at the rate of support price. The State Government is pursuing the Union Government that the Cotton in Maharashtra should be purchased by Cotton Corporation of India [CCI] and NAFED. It is also pursuing the Government of India to increase import duty on Cotton.

Export Zone for Bananas and Oranges

India is the biggest producer of bananas in the World. While Maharashtra produces about 43.3 lakh Metric Tonnes of bananas, its Jalgaon District leads in banana production with 45,000 Hectares of land under banana crop. Sixty per cent of bananas produced in Maharashtra come from Jalgaon district. It is followed by Nanded, Hingoli, Nandurbar, Buldhana, Parbhani, Dhule and Wardha.

There is ample scope for Export of Indian bananas to Dubai and other Middle East Countries, UK and other European Countries.

India ranks seventh in the World in production of Oranges. India produces 10.4 per cent of the World Orange production. Maharashtra is the largest Orange producing State in India with 1, 30,000 Hectares Land under Orange plantation producing 11.17 lakh metric tons of fruits.

In view of the large scale production of bananas and oranges in the State, Maharashtra Government has decided to set up Agriculture produce Export Zone in the State. MOU for the purpose was signed on 4th July, 2005 between APEDA Chairman K.S. Mani and Sunil Porwal, the then, Secretary, Marketing, Government of Maharashtra. An investment of Rs.13.45 crore will be made into setting up of Banana Export Zone, while Rs. 26.24 crore will be invested in Oranges Export Zone. These Zones will train farmers to produce export quality fruits, harvesting, gradation, packing, post-harvest technology exports and other connected issues. Necessary facilities and infrastructure will also be provided in these Zones.

Districts of Jalgaon, Dhule, Nandurbar, Hingoli, Wardha, Buldhana, Parbhani and Nanded have been short listed for inclusion into Banana Agro produce Export Zone. While only two districts Nagpur and Amaravati are included in the Oranges Agro-produce Export Zone. Development of both Agro-produce Export Zone is in progress.

Centenary Celebrations of
Co-operative Movement

Co-operative Movement in Maharashtra completes a Century of its existence and to celebrate the occasion, year long programmes during June 2005 to 2006 are chalked out, while the year has been named as Co-operation Centenary Year. A committee, with Chief Minister as Chairman and another with Minister for Co-operatives as its Chairman to implement the programme have been appointed. Various co-operative organizations will join the celebration.

A vision document for Department of Co-operatives will be prepared in this centenary year. It will point to the future direction of the Co-operative Movement. Co-operative Centenary Awards will be presented to various Co-operative Organization. It is planned to institute these awards on a permanent basis. Necessary funds will be raised through co-operative societies.

Broad out line of the programme will be as follows:

1. Seminars and Conferences will be organized to discuss progress of Co-operative Units with the help of district level co-operative societies, challenges faced by Co-operatives and in its view, what should be the future direction of the Co-operative Movement?
2. A Logo will be prepared for use on letterheads of all organization in Co-operative Sector and offices of Co-operative department.
3. The celebration will begin at Pune in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister while concluding function will be held at Nagpur.
4. A Souvenir will be released on the occasion which will review important stages and phases of Co-operative Movement during past 100 years.
5. State level felicitation of workers and leaders contribute to the Co-operative Movement.
6. Success story, documentaries on successful Co-operative Organization/Societies will be prepared.
7. A scheme to award incentive grants to the best Co-operative Society will be formulated and implemented by the State Government.
8. Sakhar-Ratna Award will be instituted for Best Co-operative Sugar factory.

Ban on Ethanol manufacture withdrawn.

Public Works

Department

1567 K M Land Road

Development Programme

Public Works Department [PWD], under the policy of Privatization, has decided to take up bridge and road development work on Build, Operate and Transfer [BOT] basis. This work involves conversion of roads into Two-Lane, Three-Lane and Four-Lane roads. Road network can be extended through Privatization to provide much needed momentum to the progress of the State.

Work through Privatization

PWD looks after roads, bridges and buildings. It has completed 59 works of roads and bridges, worth Rs.387.61 crore, and 16 works, worth Rs.233.57 crore, are in progress. Besides 68 more jobs costing Rs.2, 497 crore are in pipeline.

Recently PWD completed development of a plot, Survey no.231, at Arsenal Plant, Pune, under policy of building privatization at a cost of Rs.7.82 crore. There are 4 more works in progress, costing Rs.298.90 crore, which included development of Plots at Ghatkopar, Mumbai, Survey No. 194[B]; Khadakmal, Pune, Survey Nos. 607 and 931; Survey Plot No.1054 at Trimbak Naka, Nasik and City Survey Plot No. 203 at Saat Rasta, Solapur. Besides it is proposed to take up 28 more works worth Rs. 743 crore.

Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation [MSRDC], an organ of the State Government has completed 125 jobs valued at Rs.3,300 crores, while 137 tasks costing Rs.2,569 crore are in progress and 116 more work worth Rs.5,423 crore are proposed.

Seven Posts for PMGS Programme

Seven Posts, one State Level Chief Engineer and six Superintending Engineers at Divisional levels, would be created for Prime Minister Gram Sadak programme.

It was necessary to fill these technical posts as per guidelines of the Central Government for effective implementation of PMGS programme. Department of Rural Development and Water Conservation will fill in the posts on deputation basis and also make necessary provisions for expenditure. ***

Law and Judiciary

Special Court for SEBI cases

A special court has been established at Mumbai to deal with criminal and other cases filed by SEBI [Security and Exchange Board of India]. At present various cases filed by SEBI are dealt with in different courts. In view of the fact that these courts can not give sufficient time to decide these cases, a necessity was felt to set up Special Court for SEBI cases.

Additional Family Courts at Nagpur

There are two Family Courts at Nagpur and 4289 cases are pending. It takes longer time to decide upon the cases. Therefore, Swabhiman Family Counselling Centre, Nagpur filed a Writ Petition in the Mumbai High Court to set up two additional courts at Nagpur. Accordingly it was decided recently to set up two additional family courts at Nagpur.

Additional District and Sessions Court at Ichalkaranjee

State Government recently approved establishing of an Additional District and Sessions Court and also a Civil Court [Senior Level] at Ichalkaranjee. Sanction is also granted to create necessary posts of Judges in these courts. Approval is also granted to an expenditure of Rs.30,42,000 towards salary and allowances for 37 posts to be created in the offices of the Public Prosecutors for these two Courts.

Retired Judicial officers to get benefit of Shetty Pay Commission

It is decided to pay revised pension to retired Judicial Officers as per recommendations of Shetty Pay Commission. About 150 Judicial Officers retired before 1st July, 1996 and 250 Judicial Officers retired thereafter will be benefitted by this decision. ***

Education and Sports

Reservation for Sportspersons

Five per cent of the posts in categories a, b, c and d to be filled in by nominations in various Government and semi-government offices, are now reserved for men and women sports persons with shining performances at National and International Sports meets. Sports persons are categorised in 3 groups for appointments to the reserved posts. Sportspersons securing 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in individual or team events in recognized National and International sports events will be eligible for appointment under this category.

New subsidy rate for Nutritious Food Programme

Central Government has revised rates for giving subsidy to State Government for School Nutritious Meals Programme. Student gets 100 grams of rice [Khichadi] under the programme and Central Government will pay revised rate of Re.1 per student per day w. e. f. 1st September, 2004. Earlier the rate was 50 paise per student per day. It means eligible schools will get on an average, a grant of Re.1.50 per student per day for the programme. In effect, it will facilitate supply of better quality khichadi, and egg or a banana or biscuits once in a week to the student.

Smaller schools and schools at hamlets [Vasti Shala] will receive new additional subsidy per student, to cover transport and cooking expenses, which are similar to any bigger school. According to revised

formula schools with 1 to 75 students on Rolls will get Rs.1.75 per day per student while schools with students numbering between 76 to 250 on Roll will get Rs.1.25 as subsidy.

Vasti-Shala Teachers to get higher wages

Volunteer Teachers at Vasti shala, with continues service of minimum three years will get Rs. 1,500 per month from the academic year 2004-05, instead of Rs.1,000 and for that Rs.2 crore 10 lakh have been provided for through Contingency Funds.

School Tribunal at Latur

There are 10 School Tribunals in the State, to decide upon appeals concerning petition from employees of aided private schools. One such at Latur will now be set up with jurisdiction over Latur, Nanded and Hingoli Districts. It will cost excheque or an estimated amount of Rs.10,13,000 towards salaries of officers and other staff of the Tribunal.

It is also decided to restructure the school Tribunals, of Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Nasik, Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Solapur, Amaravati, Nagpur and Chandrapur.

Water Supply and Sanitation

Jal Swarajya Project

Jal swarajya project is implemented in the first phase in 25 Gram Panchayats and Padas in selected 9 districts in the State. Those are Thane, Nasik, Satara, Sangali, Osmanabad, Buldhana, Nagpur, Chandrapur and Yavatmal. These villages were selected on the basis of availability of water and ratio of Backward and Tribal Communities among the population in village. Selection, planning, implementation, tendering, purchases, management and even maintenance, under the Project will be done at Gram Panchayat Level. The Project is to be implemented before June 2006.

Necessary funds, as requisitioned by the districts have been made available.

K F W Project

This is the first of its kind Project in Maharashtra, based on people's participation for the people, by the people and funded by and outside [German] Agency. Cost of the project is estimated to be Rs.153 crore and includes perennial water supply, conservancy and health education.

In the first phase of the project 75 villages in Pune, Ahmednagar and Aurangabad Districts are included in the scheme and project is under implementation. In the second phase 200 villages from 3 districts will be included for which selection process is in progress.

Swa-Jal Dhara Scheme

About 3,000 proposals under the scheme, costing nearly Rs.328 crore have been received and 782 proposals of Rs.82.62 crore are cleared in the first phase.

Government of India has sanctioned 2nd installment of funds to 298 schemes out of 528 schemes submitted to it to receive 2nd instalment. Amount of sanctioned funds are

transferred directly to concerned Zilla Parishad Bank accounts. Zilla Parishads are empowered by June 2003 guidelines of Central Government to approve Swa-Jal Dhara schemes. In the second phase, 557 schemes are approved.

Shivkaleen Water Supply Scheme

This scheme stressed on Rain Water conservation by stoppage, storage and sparing usage. Zilla Parishads have been provided with Rs.66.62 crore through various sources for this Shivkaleen Water Supply Scheme.

Cleanliness of Movement

In view of the response to the Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachchhata [cleanliness] movement in the rural areas of the State, it was decided to take the scheme to urban areas too. The Project is under implementation. Competition under the scheme in 3 categories namely (a) all Municipal Corporations, (b) 'A' and 'B' class Municipal Councils and (c) 'C' class Municipal Councils and Town Councils [Nagar Panchayats] are organized. It has helped not only in cleaning the cities and towns, but also implementing many innovative ideas.

The State Government implements two schemes, The Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachchhata Movement and the other – village without open air excretion [Hagandari Mukh]. About 600 Gram Panchayats boast to be free from open air excretion under Nirmal Gram Programme, and proposals of 512 Gram Panchayats out of these 600 are sent to the Central Government, under the Scheme.

A few more progressive steps

- 1) The State Budget, after a long gap, for the first time, this year, made a provision of Rs.1,100 Crore for the development and progress of Scheduled Castes and Rs. 900 Crore for development and progress of Scheduled Tribes.
- 2) Amount of scholarships to the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is doubled.
- 3) Achieved revenue surplus of Rs. 265 crore in the budget for the first time in past ten years.
- 4) Sumptuous provision of RS. 2083 Crore in the 2005 – 06 budget towards development of irrigation facilities in the backward regions of the state and Rs. 1,400 crore for reducing in backlog of development in other sectors.
- 5) Maharashtra State Minorities Commission granted Statutory Status.
- 6) MHADA to construct 1 lakh houses in rural areas of the State, in next 2 years, at a cost of Rs. 540 crore.
- 7) State Commissioner for Information appointed for effective implementation of Right to Information.
- 8) Water Regulatory Authority appointed.
- 9) Appointment of Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission to give an impetus to scientific and technological programmes.

10) For the first time a budgetary provision of Rs. 1,000 crore is made for development of Mumbai.