

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

1. With your permission, I rise to present the Budget Estimates for the year 2015-16.

2. My Government has completed two years in the office and our achievements in these two years bear testimony to our commitment towards all round development of the State regardless of region, religion, caste and creed. We are working with the motto of '*Sarav Kalyan Smagra Vikaas*' (सर्व कल्याण समग्र विकास).

3. The welfare of common man has always been the focus of the policies of my Government. Soon after the assumption of office, we increased the Social Security Pension from ₹ 450 to ₹ 500 per month, which was further raised to ₹ 550 in the current financial year. Persons above 80 years of age not drawing any other pension, are being provided Social Security Pension at the rate of ₹ 1,000 per month irrespective of their income.

4. Speaker Sir, the Sanitation Workers, Rag Pickers, Auto-Rickshaw and Taxi Drivers were covered under '*Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana*' (RSBY). 4.48 Lakh Smart Cards were provided to the beneficiaries under this Scheme during two years of my Government.

5. 37 Lakh people of the State have been covered under '*Rajiv Gandhi Ann Yojana*', to provide them food security.

They are being provided 3 Kilogram of Wheat at the rate of ₹ 2 per Kilogram and 2 Kilogram of Rice at the rate of ₹ 3 per Kilogram per month. All the BPL families continue to get 35 Kilogram of ration per month.

6. The Financial Assistance for Construction of Houses under various Housing Schemes was enhanced from ₹ 48,500 to ₹ 75,000. Housing Subsidy for Repair of Houses of SC, ST and OBC families was increased from ₹ 15,000 to ₹ 25,000. Annual Income Limit for availing benefit under different Welfare Schemes was enhanced from ₹ 20,000 to ₹ 35,000. The income limit for the creamy layer of Other Backward Classes was enhanced from ₹ 4 Lakh 50 Thousand to ₹ 6 Lakh per annum.

7. The Daily Wages were increased from ₹ 150 to ₹ 170. Additional Honorarium of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers was increased by 50 per cent. Monthly Honorarium to the Tailoring Teachers was increased from ₹ 1,600 to ₹ 2,000. Monthly Honorarium of the Part-Time Water Carriers was increased from ₹ 1,300 to ₹ 1,500. Similarly, Honorarium of Home Guards was increased from ₹ 225 to ₹ 260 per day.

8. Pension Allowance of 5 per cent, 10 per cent and 15 per cent was provided to the pensioners on attaining the age of 65 - 70 years, 70 - 75 years and 75 - 80 years respectively. Benefit of Dual Family Pension to the families of Military Family Pensioners has been granted from the year 2014-15.

9. Speaker Sir, immediately after assuming office, our Government launched an ambitious Scheme of Skill Development Allowance, whereby an allowance of ₹ 1,000 is being provided per month to the educated unemployed youth to increase their employability by improving their skills. This allowance is being given at the increased rate of ₹ 1,500 per month to the persons with disabilities. 64,389 Himachali youth have availed benefit under the Scheme in the initial two years.

10. The PTA Teachers removed by the previous Government were re-engaged and their grant was also increased by my Government. Further, I am happy to inform that we have regularised the services of Para-Teachers and the services of PTA Teachers have been brought on Government contract.

11. 719 New Schools have been opened / upgraded in the State. 14 New Degree Colleges have also been opened in this short span of two years. Three Medical Colleges are being opened with the assistance of Government of India. Besides, IIT in Una District, IIM in Sirmour District and AIIMS in Bilaspur District are also being established shortly in the State.

12. The students of Government Schools up to Plus Two (+2) Class have been provided free travelling facility in HRTC buses for journey between their residence and school. Now, I announce to extend the free travelling facility in HRTC buses to the students of '*Kendriya Vidyalayas*' also.

Speaker Sir,

“न जाने अभी कितनी उड़ान बाकी है,
इस परिन्दे में अभी जान बाकी है।”

13. Speaker Sir, we inherited huge financial liabilities from the previous Government, because of the less devolution by the 13th Finance Commission. While this Commission recommended on an average 126 per cent growth over the 12th Finance Commission Award for other States, Himachal was given only 50 per cent increase, which was the lowest in the country. This resulted in loss of ₹ 10,725 Crore over a period of five years. Further, the Revenue Deficit Grant was drastically reduced for 2013-14 and 2014-15. Due to this reason, the financial position of the State Government remained critical in 2013-14 and 2014-15. However, I would like to say here that despite all financial constraints, there is hardly any category, which has not been benefitted in one way or the other from the benevolent policies of my Government.

May I say here;

“ उठती लहरों को साहिल की दरकार नहीं होती,
हौसलों के आगे कोई दीवार नहीं होती।”

14. Speaker Sir, we pursued our case with the 14th Finance Commission in the right earnest. We are happy that the 14th Finance Commission has taken into consideration our concerns and difficulties and has given us reasonable increase in the Revenue Deficit Grant. However, the Government of India has made the release of Revenue Deficit Grant to the State, subject to raising of revenue and fiscal consolidation (Expenditure reduction). Speaker Sir, no such condition was proposed by the Fourteenth Finance Commission, while

recommending the Revenue Deficit Grant to the State. This unilateral condition imposed by the Union Government will jeopardise the State developmental requirement, in the award period starting from 1st April, 2015.

15. Speaker Sir, the focus of my Government is on Good Governance. providing good governance to the people of Himachal Pradesh. In order to provide transparent, accountable and time bound services to the people, thirty more services of the Housing, Transport, Home and Health Departments have been brought under the Public Services Guarantee Act.

16. The State Government has recently done away with the age old practice of obtaining affidavits for various purposes by the Government offices, replacing them with a self-declaration on plain paper except where there is a statutory requirement. This will provide great relief to the general public, in terms of time and money saving.

17. To move towards a paperless environment, we have implemented e-Office software application in the department of Information Technology. We further propose to implement this on pilot basis in Irrigation & Public Health Department and DC office Shimla in 2015-16.

18. e-Procurement (e-Tendering) will be extended to more Departments to achieve the objective of 100 per cent coverage and bring transparency in the Government procurement process. Further, for timely completion of Works/Schemes and for their

proper monitoring, the Contract Management Information System will be rolled out right from tendering of works till the completion of works/schemes in PWD and IPH Departments in 2015-16.

19. I am pleased to inform that e-Vidhan System was launched on 4th August, 2014 to make the working of this August House and its Committees paperless. This is saving huge quantity of papers and thus helping in conserving the environment. This initiative of the Vidhan Sabha has been lauded all over the country.

20. I am happy to inform that our State has been awarded the prestigious “*CSI - Nihilent e-Governance Award 2014*” for “*Revenue Case Monitoring System (RCMS) Project*” during 49th Annual Convention of Computer Society of India on 13th December, 2014 at Hyderabad.

National
Economy.

21. Speaker Sir, as per the new series of National Accounts released by the Government of India, the Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.4 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2014-15 on a new series with a base year of 2011 after witnessing a growth of 6.9 percent in 2013-14. The current account deficit (CAD) has declined to manageable levels, especially due to reduction of crude oil prices. Moderation in inflation has helped ease the monetary policy stance and revive the confidence of investors and with the global economy expected to recover moderately, the economy can look forward to better growth prospects in 2015-16 and beyond.

22. The average Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Inflation moderated to a four year low of around 5 per cent in 2013-14. However, the pressure from domestic food items remained elevated due to the sub-normal monsoons during 2014-15. Inflation in terms of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) remained fairly sticky at around 5.9 per cent owing to higher food inflation.

23. Speaker Sir, Himachal Pradesh has covered a long and arduous journey of development over the last 67 years of its existence. The achievements made by it on various development fronts are a result of the concerted efforts of the successive Congress Governments in the State. State
Economy.

24. Speaker Sir, the growth estimates of States are not comparable with the revised estimates at the national level due to revision in base year at the national level. The State economy is expected to grow at 6.5 per cent in 2014-15, as per the estimates made with the base year of 2004-05. The growth of the State's economy will only be possible to be compared with the national growth rate, once the estimates with the base year of 2011-12 are made available at the State level also.

25. The Gross State Domestic Product at current prices is expected to grow from ₹ 85,841 Crore in 2013-14 to ₹ 95,587 Crore in 2014-15, as per the advance estimates. The per capita income at current prices has increased from ₹ 95,582 in 2013-14 to ₹ 1,04,943 in 2014-15 registering an increase of 9.8 per cent. Hon'ble Members would be happy to know that

the per capita income of Himachal Pradesh is much higher than the national average of ₹ 88,538. The distributive effects of the rapid growth of economy are benefitting all the sections and regions of the State.

Annual
Plan
2015-16.

26. Speaker Sir, there has been an uncertainty with regard to the continuation of the Annual Plan formulation process, as the Planning Commission has been replaced by '*NITI Aayog*'. However, the State Government has approved Annual Plan for 2015-16, which is the 4th year of the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17). A plan size of ₹ 4,800 Crore has been proposed for 2015-16, which is ₹ 400 Crore higher, as compared to Plan size of 2014-15. This includes a provision of ₹ 1,209 Crore for Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan, ₹ 432 Crore for Tribal Sub-Plan and ₹ 60 Crore for Backward Area Sub-Plan.

Speaker Sir, the funding of State Plan used to be done by the erstwhile Planning Commission. We had a big hope from the *NITI Aayog*, which has replaced the Planning Commission. However, our hopes have been belied. From 2015-16 the *NITI Aayog* or the Government of India will not fund the Himachal State Plan, as is evident from the provisions of the Union Budget 2015-16.

The State will lose a grant of more than ₹ 3,000 Crore in 2015-16, in shape of Normal Central Assistance, Special Central Assistance and Special Plan Assistance. The total loss in next five years will be ₹ 15,000 to ₹ 20,000 Crore on this account itself. Moreover, the Government of India has proposed a

huge cut in the central share of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and has transferred several Schemes to the State for funding, which will impact the finances of the State.

Speaker Sir,

“हजारों ऐब ढूँढते हैं हम दूसरों में इस तरह,
अपने किरदारों में हम लोग, फरिश्ते हों जैसे।”

27. Speaker Sir, an amount of ₹ 50 Lakh is provided to each MLA under ‘*Vidhayak Kshetriya Vikas Nidhi Yojana*’ to sanction developmental schemes in his/her constituency. Most of the MLAs, during the budget meeting on January 23 & 24, had requested to raise this limit. I accede to their request and announce to increase the ‘*Vidhayak Nidhi*’ from ₹ 50 Lakh to ₹ 70 Lakh. However, the MLAs will be required to spend minimum amount of ₹ 20 Lakh on Minor Irrigation Works like; Kuhls, Ponds and Command Area Development to increase the income level of farmers in their constituency.

28. Speaker Sir, the social indicators of Himachal Pradesh have improved over the years. This has been recognised by the World Bank in its recent Report; ‘Scaling the Heights’, which says that Himachal Pradesh has successfully reduced the incidence of poverty regardless of gender and caste, both in the rural and urban areas. The report has highlighted that the poverty level in Himachal Pradesh has declined from 36.8 per cent in 1993 to 8.5 per cent in 2011, which is four fold decline. This is better than any other State in the country. I compliment the people of this State for their hard work, which

led to the reduction of poverty. Now, it is the time to plan for prosperity of the people of Himachal Pradesh by investing in productive assets and thus increasing employment opportunities in the State.

Speaker Sir, We take our achievements with all humility and never lose focus on our objectives. May I say:

“हम गुब्बारे नहीं जो चन्द फूँकों से फूल जाएं,
कुछ पल हवा में रह के अपने मकसद को भूल जाएं।”

Externally
aided
Projects.

29. Externally Aided Projects play an important role in the resource mobilisation, as the State gets 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan under these Projects. Presently, eight Externally Aided Projects with a total cost of ₹ 12,040 Crore are being implemented in the State with the assistance of external funding agencies. A new Project on production and marketing with an emphasis on Post-Harvest Management Practices of Horticulture Crops in the State amounting to ₹ 1,000 Crore has recently been approved for funding by the World Bank.

Food
Security.

30. Speaker Sir, my Government has a deep concern for the common masses in order to insulate them from the effects of rising food prices. As the House is aware, we started the State Subsidy Scheme to subsidise Three Daals, Two Edible Oils and Iodised Salt to the ration card holders. We will continue with the food subsidy scheme for which a budget outlay of ₹210 Crore is proposed for 2015-16.

At present, the Tibetans are issued annual PDS Permits that entitle them to draw wheat and rice only. I am happy to announce that all Tibetan families will be provided ration items at par with the other ration card holders of the State with effect from 1st April, 2015.

31. In order to bring efficiency and plug leakages in the Public Distribution System, my Government has undertaken a Project of automation of Public Distribution System known as e-PDS. Funds to the tune of ₹ 14 Crore have been sanctioned under this Project. The e-PDS Project will be completed during 2015-16 and Digital Ration Cards will be issued to all the eligible residents.

32. To increase storage capacity for the food grains, I propose to provide additional ₹ 4 Crore for Construction of Go-downs / Warehouses during 2015-16 to the Department of Food & Civil Supplies.

33. Speaker Sir, it has truly been said that;

Agriculture.

‘Agriculture is the noblest of all the alchemy for it turns earth and even manure to gold, conferring upon its cultivator the additional reward of health’.

My Government is committed to promote Agriculture in the State by increasing the productivity of crops. It goes without saying that efficient system of irrigation is very crucial for increasing production. I, therefore, propose to launch a new Project named **‘Rajiv Gandhi Micro-Irrigation Scheme’** with

an outlay of ₹ 154 Crore over a period of 4 years. Through this Project, 8,500 hectare area will be brought under Drip/Sprinkler Irrigation System benefitting 14,000 farmers. Farmers will get a subsidy of ₹ 113 Crore during the project period.

34. In most parts of the State, water has to be lifted for irrigation purpose. As an incentive to the farmers, I announce to grant 50 per cent subsidy for construction of Lift Irrigation Schemes and installation of Bore-Wells by individual or group of farmers for irrigation purposes. I propose an initial budget provision of ₹20 Crore for 2015-16. The same will be increased as per the actual demand from the farmers.

35. The IPH Department has created an irrigation potential for 1,62,335 Hectares, but actual flow of water to farmers' field is only about 54,546 Hectare. Thus, there is huge gap in potential created and actual utilisation. The Departments of Rural Development, Agriculture and Horticulture are also undertaking Minor Irrigation Works. However, all these Departments need to work in tandem so that benefit of irrigation reaches the farmers. I propose to set up a Standing Committee headed by the Agriculture Minister, which will have Secretaries and HoDs of Agriculture, Horticulture, IPH and Rural Development Departments along with Experts on Irrigation. This Committee will meet regularly and take suitable decisions for the maximum utilisation of the irrigation potential created by various departments. It will also formulate policies for holistic development of irrigation facilities in the State.

36. For improvement of soil health services, the zone-wise Soil Fertility Maps will be made available on-Line so that the farmers can get first hand information about the health of their soils. I propose to provide Soil Health Cards to One Lakh farmers in 2015-16. I further propose to establish three new Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories to provide services in interior and far-flung areas.

37. With concerted efforts and policies of the State Government, the production of off-season vegetables has crossed 14 Lakh Tonnes generating income of about ₹ 2,500 Crore. I propose an outlay of ₹ 60 Crore for further promotion of off-season vegetables during 2015-16.

38. We started '*Dr. Y.S. Parmar Kisan Swarozgar Yojana*' under which 85 per cent subsidy is being provided to the farmers to set-up poly-houses. I propose an outlay of ₹ 30 Crore for this scheme to cover additional 2 Lakh Square Meter area under Poly-Houses in 2015-16. This will provide employment to about 5,000 unemployed persons engaged in Agriculture. I also propose to extend this Scheme for construction of High-Tech Poly-House having Temperature Control Facility with separate subsidy for such equipments.

39. I also propose to launch a new Scheme called; '*Establishment of Centres of Excellence for Vegetable Nursery Production*' by farmers to raise the vegetables seedling, flower and other valuable plants under controlled environment to provide better planting material to the farmers and to provide gainful employment to the farming youth.

40. Organic Farming is the need of hour. I propose to cover 2,000 hectare additional area in the coming year under Organic Farming. 200 Villages will be converted into complete Bio-Villages starting from 2015-16. To meet the requirement of Organic Manure, I propose to set up 20,000 Vermi-Compost Units with 50 per cent assistance to the farmers.

41. My Government has given high priority for strengthening of existing marketing yards and creation of new market yards. I, therefore, propose a budget provision of ₹ 10 Crore to the Marketing Board to supplement its resources for development of Market Yards.

42. With a view to increase fodder production in the State, my Government proposes to launch a new scheme; '***Uttam Ch meta Utpadan Yojana***' for fodder development by bringing an area of 25,000 hectare under fodder production. Quality Seed of Fodder Grasses, Cuttings, Seedlings of Improved Fodder Varieties will be supplied on subsidised rates to the farmers. Chaff Cutters are important input for farmers. As on today, subsidy on Chaff Cutters is available to the SC/ST farmers. Now I extend this subsidy to the BPL farmers also.

43. With a view to provide Insurance cover to the Farmers and Agricultural Labourers in the event of sustaining injury or death due to operation of farm machinery, I propose to launch a new Scheme called; '***Mukhyamantri Kisaan evam Khetihar Mazdoor Jeevan Surakhsha Yojana***' (मुख्य मन्त्री किसान एवं खेतीहर मजदूर जीवन सुरक्षा योजना) in 2015-16. In case of the death and

permanent disability, a compensation of ₹ 1.5 Lakh and in case of partial disabilities, compensation up to ₹ 50,000 will be provided to the affected.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 450 Crore for the Department of Agriculture.

44. Speaker Sir, Abraham Lincon said,

Horticulture.

“ The greatest fine art of future would be the making of a comfortable living from a small piece of land ”.

It goes without saying that Horticulture is one of those fine arts, which can help earn livelihood from a small piece of land.

My Government has always laid emphasis on sustainable growth in horticulture. I propose to bring additional 3,000 hectare area under improved varieties of horticultural crops in 2015-16.

With a view to increase productivity, 1,000 hectare additional area will be brought under the Micro-Irrigation in 2015-16.

45. To promote protected cultivation in horticulture and to protect fruit crops especially apple from hailstorms, the State Government has already enhanced subsidy under Green houses to 85 per cent and on Anti-Hail Nets to 80 per cent. I propose to cover 2 Lakh Square Metre area under protected cultivation of high value fruits, flowers and vegetables besides bringing

12 Lakh Square Metre additional area under Anti-hail nets in 2015-16.

46. The guidelines of Apple Rejuvenation Project have been simplified and made farmer friendly. During 2015-16, additional 1,000 hectare area will be brought under the revamped '*Apple Rejuvenation Project*'.

The productivity of apple depends on the availability of quality root stocks and proper orchard management by the farmers. The adoption of high density plantation will also improve the productivity to a great extent. The Government will provide all possible assistance to the growers for providing quality plant material and latest techniques of orchard management. I propose an additional budget of ₹ 10 Crore in 2015-16 for import of good quality root stocks including new polliniser varieties of good market value.

The honey bees play an important role in pollination of horticulture produce. At present Government of India is giving 40 per cent subsidy for honey bee colonies. I propose to provide an additional 30 per cent subsidy from the State Government to promote pollinisation through honey bees.

47. The Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme was extended from 17 blocks to 35 blocks for Apple and from 10 Blocks to 42 Blocks for Mango during Rabi season 2014-15. Besides, additional Fruit Crops; like Plum, Peach and Kinnow have also been brought under the insurance cover of the

Scheme in few Blocks. I propose to extend the Insurance Scheme in all the blocks of the State in 2015-16.

48. For the benefit of Horticulturists of the State, I propose to provide ₹ 5 Crore to HPMC for converting its existing Cold Stores at Rohroo, Oddi and Patlikuhhal into CA Cold Stores.

49. Speaker Sir,

“ सीख तू फूलों से गाफिल मुद्दा—ए—ज़िन्दगी,
खुद महकना ही नहीं, गुलशन को महकाना भी है। ”

Floriculture is playing a significant role in uplifting the economy of the people. Himachali farmers have done very well in production of flowers. They send their flower packets to Delhi and other places by using the HRTC buses. The HRTC is charging a full ticket fare as freight for a big box of flowers. For smaller boxes, the freight charged is equivalent to half ticket fare at present. To give relief to the floriculturists, I announce reduction of this freight by 50 percent.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 268 Crore for the Department of Horticulture.

50. Speaker Sir, with a view to enhance milk production and conserve indigenous breeds, a new Breeding Policy for Cattle is in the process of formulation. This Breeding Policy envisages conservation of indigenous and Pahari breeds of Cattle through Artificial Insemination. An amount of ₹ 5.71

Animal
Husbandry.

Crore has been earmarked for strengthening of Artificial Insemination and breeding related infrastructure.

51. To provide specialised services to the livestock breeders, my Government proposes to establish Poly-Clinics in Una and Bilaspur.

52. The cattle owners abandon the cattle once they become unproductive, which is cruelty to the animals. The stray cattle damage the crops. I, therefore, propose to impose heavy penalty on those, who abandon their cattle. The Scheme of Tattooing the animals will be enforced strictly, to identify the owners. We will also encourage Temple Trusts and Charitable Organisations to open Go-sadans for stray cattle for which they will be suitably assisted by the Government.

53. I am also happy to announce that a '*Gauvansh Samvardhan Board*' (गोवँश सम्वर्धन बोर्ड) will be constituted in the State to frame suitable policies and programmes for Milch Cattle especially the Cows. I propose a revolving fund of ₹ 10 Crore for this purpose in 2015-16.

54. We are committed to the welfare of Sheep Breeders of the State. We introduced Quality Linked Wool Pricing Scheme in 2014-15 benefitting approximately 10,000 Sheep Breeders in getting higher prices of wool of cross-bred sheep. The scheme will continue in 2015-16 also.

55. To provide better marketing facilities to the milk producers, HP Milk Federation is expected to collect

approximately 240 Lakh Litres of milk in 2015-16, which will fetch an income of about ₹ 50 Crore to the milk producers. Milk Processing Plants of 5,000 Litre Per Day capacity presently, being set up in Nalagarh, Jangalberi and Reckong-Peo will be made functional during 2015-16. To supplement the income of milk producers of the State, I am happy to announce an enhancement of Milk Procurement Price by ₹ 1 per Litre with effect from the 1st April, 2015. The MILKFED will be provided a Grant-in-Aid of ₹15 Crore in 2015-16.

56. Marketing of Milk is an important source of income to the farmers. It is, therefore, imperative to empower the Dairy Co-operative Societies. I propose a new Scheme under which 60 per cent subsidy will be provided for setting up of Milk Processing & Chilling facilities to the Dairy Co-operative Societies. The Societies will also be provided subsidy on Plant & Machinery for making by-products like Ghee, Paneer, etc., of surplus milk.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 313 Crore for the Department of Animal Husbandry.

57. Speaker Sir, my Government is committed to securing Fisheries. the livelihood of fishermen and their welfare. All active fishermen in the state numbering 12,427 have been covered under the Fishermen Accident Insurance Scheme by providing the premium free insurance at Government expenses. Each fisherman has been insured for a sum of ₹ 2 Lakh in case of death or permanent total disability and ₹ 1 Lakh for partial

permanent disability. Besides, an Insurance Cover of ₹ 10 Thousand is being provided towards hospitalisation expenses. Productivity of our reservoir fishery is showing continuous increase and Gobind Sagar Reservoir has retained its position as most productive reservoir in the country. During the next financial year, the Government proposes to construct more fish landing centres and provide better facilities in the existing ones.

Forest &
Wild Life.

58. Speaker Sir, forest conservation and development continues to be a top priority of my Government. I am pleased to inform the House that KfW Bank of Federal Republic of Germany has agreed to provide an aid of ₹ 310 Crore to the HP Forest Eco-Systems Climate Proofing Project in the State from 2015-16 for seven years in Chamba and Kangra district. We have also submitted a 'HP Forest Eco-Systems Management & Livelihood Project' for availing external assistance from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). This project will be implemented in 10 districts of the State with an approximate outlay of ₹ 1,507 Crore.

59. The World Bank funded '*Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development Project*' is being implemented in the State. We propose to spend ₹ 60 Crore during 2015-16 under the Project.

60. '*Van Sarovars*' play a significant role to maintain the moisture conservation and to help in forest fire extinguishment. 405 '*Van Sarovars*' have been constructed by the Forest Department so far. I propose to construct 100 more '*Van Sarovars*' in 2015-16.

61. Speaker Sir, my Government is deeply concerned over the loss of crops caused by the Monkeys. The State Government has established seven Monkey Sterilisation Centres in different parts of the State to mitigate the monkey menace by controlling their population. As a result of which, about 93 Thousand monkeys have been sterilised till 15th February, 2015. A detailed project, 'Habitat Enrichment Plantation Model to provide natural food resources for Rhesus Monkeys' has been prepared and sent to Government of India for consideration. We have also taken up the matter with the Government of India for lifting ban on 'Export' of monkeys and declaring them as 'Vermin' under Section-62 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 459 Crore for the Department of Forests.

62. Speaker Sir, Climate Change has emerged as one of the most challenging global issues. In view of the likely adverse impacts of Climate Change on the livelihood practices of people of our State, it is proposed to strengthen the State Knowledge Cell on Climate Change.

63. Himachal is endowed with healthy and clean environment and it is the prime responsibility of all of us to protect, preserve and maintain the green environment of Himachal Pradesh. We have received an assistance of US \$ 100 Million in DPL-II from the World Bank. My Government has posed ₹ 600 Crore Project Proposal to the World Bank through Government of India, which will help ushering in transformational shift towards a model of sustainable economic green growth in the State.

Co-
operation

64. The Integrated Co-operative Development Project (ICDP) is being successfully implemented in the Bilaspur, Hamirpur and Sirmour Districts with an outlay of ₹ 35 Crore. Three new projects for the Districts of Kangra, Shimla and Kullu have been approved by the National Co-operative Development Corporation costing of ₹ 85 Crore and the work is in progress.

65. As an e-Governance initiative, the process of computerisation of works related to Registration of Societies, On-Line Submission of Mandatory Documents, Auditing, etc., in addition to introduction of Co-operative Court Cases Management System, has been taken up to ensure efficiency and transparency.

Rural
Development
& Panchayati
Raj.

66. Speaker Sir, the State of Himachal Pradesh has made immense progress towards sanitation. Under '**Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen**' our Government will focus on ensuring coverage of all the left out households by 2017. The State will take up implementation of Solid and Liquid Waste Management in the 477 Gram Panchayats during 2015-16.

67. With a view to provide livelihood security in rural areas, 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year is being provided to every rural household, under MGNREGA. During the year 2014-15, the pace of progress under the Scheme has been affected on account of reduction in the allocation made by the Government of India. The labour budget of ₹ 670 Crore has been reduced to ₹ 355 Crore.

We intend to promote construction of Water Tanks on the private land of farmers under MGNREGA. However, MGNREGA has a limit of spending on material component up to 40 per cent only. Therefore, I propose a budget provision of ₹ 20 Crore from the State on additional material for converting '*Kacha Water Tanks*' to '*Poly-Lined Tanks / Pucca Water Tanks*' on farmers' land.

68. To mitigate the adverse effects of extreme climatic conditions and develop natural resources, Watershed Development Projects are being executed in the State. During 2015-16, 40,000 hectare area will be developed under Watershed Development Programme for which about ₹ 50 Crore will be spent under Integrated Watershed Management Programme in 2015-16.

69. Under Rural Housing, 6,021 houses have been sanctioned under '*Indira Awaas Yojana*' and '*Rajiv Awaas Yojana*' in 2014-15. We propose to construct 10,000 houses under different Housing Schemes with an outlay of ₹ 75 Crore during 2015-16. This year, we have enhanced the budget provision for General BPL families.

70. Speaker Sir, my Government is committed to strengthen the Panchayati Raj System in our State. We have constituted Fifth State Finance Commission to give timely recommendations for the devolution of funds to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Urban Local Bodies. The Government will release ₹ 109 Crore to the Panchayats in 2015-16 from the State budget. Further ₹ 195 Crore will be released to the

Panchayats, as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission in 2015-16.

71. We propose to fill up 400 posts of Panchayat Sahayaks in 2015-16 so that every Panchayat gets at-least one functionary. Besides, all the sanctioned vacant posts of Junior Engineers will be filled up.

72. The selection of BPL families is done by the Gram Sabha. There has been a large number of complaints about wrongful selection of families. At present, appeal can be filed against the wrong selection before the SDM. However, SDM cannot take cognizance of complaints on his own. Henceforth, SDM will be empowered to initiate *suo motto* enquiry and order deletion of the wrongful selection.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 840 Crore for Department of Rural Development and ₹ 414 Crore for the Department of Panchayati Raj.

Urban
Develop-
ment.

73. Speaker Sir, Solid Waste Management and Sanitation is the major challenge in urban areas of the State. My Government would undertake a Pilot Study in Sundernagar Cluster and Dharamsala Cluster in collaboration with the Government of Netherlands. Similarly, to initiate development of Hill Towns through PPP mode, another Pilot Study in the aforesaid Clusters would also be undertaken in collaboration of Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India.

In order to improve the sanitation further, my Government would make the provision of ₹ 30 Crore in 2015-16 for the

connectivity, operation, maintenance and execution of 43 Sewerage Schemes in urban and sub-urban areas of the State.

74. Rapid urbanisation in our towns is posing grave parking problems. We propose to increase Parking Facilities both through PPP mode as well as through State Government funding. Urban Local Bodies, which want to develop Parking Lots/Facilities, would be supported by the State Government by providing 50 per cent of the project cost for which, I propose a budget provision of ₹ 15 Crore.

75. Shimla is the State Capital and attracts lot of the tourists and visitors. The Circular/Cart Road is the main traffic road. I announce that this road will be widened by PWD to ensure that two buses can cross at a time. I also propose that an Additional Grant of ₹ 3 Crore will be given to MC Shimla for Developing Infrastructure for Specific Schemes in the Merged Areas.

To improve the mobility in Shimla Town, I am happy to inform that the State Government has sent a Project Proposal of ₹ 1,200 Crore to Government of India for funding through World Bank.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 259 Crore for the Urban Development Department.

76. Speaker Sir, my Government is taking several initiatives to simplify the procedures and to make them people friendly. Process of on-Line Submission of Applications for Planning Permissions has already been initiated. We are a hill State,

Town &
Country
Planning.

where space is always a constraint, therefore, I announce that Mixed Land Use will be promoted in all the planning areas.

77. While the affordable housing has always been a priority area, yet the availability of non-forest land remains a major constraint. Accordingly, we are starting a new Housing Scheme called; the '***Land Owners Become Partners in Development with HIMUDA***'. Under this Scheme, the land owners having encumbrance free and continuous chunks of land, suitable for developing the Housing Estate, can enter into an Agreement with HIMUDA, giving rights of land to HIMUDA. This Scheme will benefit the Land Owners by increased value of their land and open up new space for Housing. Similarly, Government housing will also be developed on the same pattern.

Land
Adminis-
tration.

78. Speaker Sir, the **Digitisation of Cadastral Maps (*Musaavi*)** of Chamba, Hamirpur, Mandi and Sirmour districts is underway. The digitisation work in the remaining eight districts will be undertaken in 2015-16. Once digitisation work is complete, copies of the ***Jamabandis*** as well as ***Musaavis*** will be available 24 × 7 to the general public on-Line.

79. I announce to exempt the Farmers and Self-Help Groups from payment of Stamp Duty on the Mortgage Deeds up to the value ₹ 10 Lakh registered by them.

80. Further, I am happy to announce that the entire Stamp Duty as well as the Registration Charges for mortgage to obtain education loans up to ₹ 7.50 Lakh will be exempted for all the Bonafide Himachalis.

81. I announce to enhance stipend being given to Patwari Candidate for their Patwari Training from ₹ 1,000 per month to ₹ 3,000 per month and also announce to enhance the Registration Allowance to Revenue Officers (Registrars and Sub-Registrar) from ₹ 200 per month to ₹ 2,000 per month with effect from 1st April, 2015.

82. Himachal Pradesh is a disaster prone State. We will take appropriate measures to ensure quick and co-ordinated response to natural disasters. For this purpose, we will set up two Multi-Disciplinary Forces for quick rescue operations comprising of experts in the field of Earthquake, Fire, Flood/ Drowning, etc.

I propose a budget provision of ₹ 236 Crore for Disaster Relief for 2015-16. I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 582 Crore for Department of Revenue.

83. Speaker Sir, 512 Water Supply Schemes out of 8,411 Schemes, do not have Water Treatment Plants / Filter Beds or the existing structures require repairs to ensure supply of clean and safe drinking water. It is proposed to complete the Treatment Units in all 512 Water Supply Schemes in the next three years. A sum of additional ₹ 20 Crore is proposed for 2015-16. The construction of Water Treatment Plant will also be made compulsory, while constructing any new Scheme.

Irrigation &
Public
Health.

84. An outlay of ₹ 45 Crore has been proposed under Medium Irrigation to accelerate the work on Medium Irrigation Projects in Nadaun area in District Hamirpur and Phina Singh in District Kangra during 2015-16. Since the bulk of Command

Area is serviced by Minor Irrigation Schemes, an outlay of ₹ 154 Crore is proposed for this sector with a target of covering 3,500 hectares during 2015-16.

85. Command Area Development works need to be given top priority for water to reach farmers' field. CAD works would be focused on Shah-Nehar and Sidhata Irrigation Projects, Medium Irrigation Projects Nadaun and Balh Valley (Left Bank). CAD works would be taken up in cluster of 23 Minor Irrigation Schemes being executed under AIBP in the Pradesh. I propose an outlay of ₹ 50 Crore for 2015-16.

86. To ensure that the people of Himachal Pradesh continue to get potable drinking water and our farmers get irrigation facilities at an affordable cost, I propose to provide ₹ 330 Crore to IPH Department to meet the Energy Charges of Water Supply and Irrigation Schemes.

87. In the pre-budget meeting, the issue of delayed preparation of DPR in IPH and PWD was raised by most of the Hon'ble MLAs. I propose to provide adequate funds in 2015-16 for outsourcing the preparation of DPRs so that the same are prepared in time.

88. My Government has taken up Flood Protection Works in the State on priority and an outlay of ₹ 187 Crore has been proposed to protect 2,000 hectares of land from floods during 2015-16. Swan Channelisation in District Una and the Channelisation of Chouch Khad in Tehsil Indora, District Kangra is under progress. Efforts are afoot to get the DPRs

for Channelisation of Swan River from Santokhgarh Bridge to Punjab border in District Una, Channelisation of river Beas from Palchan to Aut in District Kullu and Channelisation of River Pabbar from Tikkari to Hatkoti in District Shimla approved from the Government of India under Flood Management Programme.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 2,013 Crore for Department of Irrigation & Public Health.

89. Speaker Sir, Himachal Pradesh has been blessed with huge hydro potential with five major river basins and their tributaries. Abundant quantum of White Gold (Water) is flowing untapped. We have harnessed, 9,432 MW Power so far, out of which 956 MW has been achieved during 2014-15. Capacity addition of 1,050 MW is expected to be achieved in 2015-16.

MPP &
Power.

It has been observed, that power projects are getting delayed for want of timely clearances. I announce that time-lines will be prescribed under the HP Public Services Guarantee Act to give time bound Clearances/NOCs for setting up of Hydro-Power Projects.

90. National Institute of Solar Energy has calculated a large solar energy potential in the State. Therefore, we will reform our Solar Policy to make investments easy. Solar Projects will be treated like Industrial Projects and the State will facilitate statutory clearances and land related approvals. To make the investments attractive and assured, tariff up to 5 MW capacity will be regulated and approved by the State Electricity

Regulatory Commission and the entire power will be purchased by HP State Electricity Board Ltd. This will enable large number of Smaller Projects to be set up by local entrepreneurs.

I am also happy to state that Himachal has recently been conferred Award in RE-INVEST 2015, being one of the best performing States in renewable power capacity addition.

91. With the objective of Energy Conservation, our Government proposes to launch LED Promotion Programme in the State. Three LED Bulbs would be made available to domestic consumers, below the market price of these bulbs, whose cost would be recovered from consumers through electricity bills. HPSEB Ltd., would procure these LED bulbs through Energy Efficiency Services Ltd., a Government of India undertaking.

The advantage of this Scheme is that, as against market price of ₹ 350 per LED bulb, the same will be available at about ₹ 150. Consumers will pay ₹ 10 per LED at initial stage and ₹ 10 per bulb per month will be recovered through subsequent electricity bills. In offices, factories, hotels and commercial properties, full replacement would be done.

Progressively, over 21 Lakh consumers would be covered, which would help in energy conservation and provide consumers with long lasting Electricity bulbs.

92. I also propose to reduce VAT on LED Bulbs from 13.75 per cent to 5 per cent for the benefit of consumers. Further, to ensure efficient use of bio-mass in the State, Energy Efficient

Chullahs certified by The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI) or approved by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy will be exempted from VAT.

93. The State Government has taken various steps to improve the financial health of the HPSEBL. The State has already taken over the loan liability of ₹ 564 Crore of the Board and will provide an interest payment of ₹ 49 Crore on this to the HPSEBL in 2015-16. The State Government will also provide an equity contribution of ₹ 50 Crore, so that HPSEBL can upgrade the rural lines by installing new poles and transformers. In addition to this, I propose to provide ₹ 380 Crore for subsidising electricity to the domestic consumers of our State.

To facilitate evacuation of Power from up-coming Hydro-Electric Projects, HPPTCL has undertaken works of commissioning various Sub-Stations at various places. HPPTCL is expected to provide system to evacuate approximately 150 MW of power of new State Hydro-Electric Projects from different basins of State during 2015-16.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 1,083 Crore for the Department of MPP & Power.

94. Speaker Sir, our Government accords top priority to Industries. rapid and balanced industrialisation in the State to increase growth and create employment opportunities for youth. As of now, about 3 Lakh persons are employed in about 40,500 units throughout the State. Infrastructure Development is crucial for promoting industry in the State. I propose to provide ₹ 40

Crore for the development of infrastructure in industrial areas in the State. Besides, ₹ 20 Crore will be given to Baddi - Barotiwala - Nalagarh Development Authority (BBNDA) for various infrastructure works. With a view to stimulate and create enabling framework for catalysing investments in manufacturing with specific timelines a system of On-Line Approvals & Renewals under various Acts will be introduced. I am happy to announce that new industries will be charged Entry Tax at the rate of 1 per cent on the industrial inputs, in place of existing 2 per cent.

95. The representatives of the Industries have requested for the reduction of Electricity Duty and additional concessions on duty for new industries. I have carefully considered their request. I am pleased to announce that the Electricity Duty for the specified Extra High Tension (EHT) category consumers will be reduced from existing 15 per cent to 13 per cent. Further, the, Electricity Duty for the existing Medium and Large Industries except EHT will be reduced from the existing rate of 13 per cent to 11 per cent. Similarly, for any existing Small Industry, I propose to reduce the electricity duty from existing 7 per cent to 5 per cent and any new Small Industry will be required to pay only 1 per cent electricity duty for five years. I am also happy to announce that any new industry including EHT category, which employ more than 300 Himachalis will be charged only 1 per cent electricity duty for five years.

96. I had announced in the budget speech of 2014-15 that State of Art Industrial Areas will be set up in the State. I am

pleased to inform the House that the approval for setting up of Industrial Area at Kandrauri in Kangra District and at Pandoga in Una District under MILUS Scheme of Government of India at an estimated cost of ₹ 107 Crore and ₹ 112 Crore respectively has been received.

The Government will also formulate a new Scheme called the '*Entrepreneur Development Scheme*' to develop entrepreneurship among the local youth in the State.

97. The State Government will revamp the State Level Single Window Clearance & Monitoring Authority to expedite and to ensure time bound clearances. In future, the Permission to set up industries will be granted within 45 days from the date of submission of common application form, complete in all respects. To ensure this, a system to track the applications will also be put in place. Further, the processes relating to deemed clearances after single window approval and on-Line/time bound clearances by various departments shall be put in place.

I am also happy to announce that Green categories of industrial projects to be set up in notified industrial areas/estates, which do not require Environmental Clearance, will automatically be granted '*Consent to Establish*' under Water and Air Act, on the basis of self-certified application, instead of present system of granting Consent to Establish after inspection and verification.

98. Speaker Sir, I announce that MGNREGA workers, who have worked for fifty days during the preceding twelve months

Labour &
Employment.

will also be registered as beneficiaries with HP Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board so that benefits of Welfare Schemes of the Board could also be extended to them.

99. To create an enabling environment for Investments in manufacturing sector, submission of applications for Registration, Renewal of Licenses, etc., have been made On-Line under the Factories Act, 1948 and HP Shops & Commercial Establishments Act, 1969. We propose to extend On-Line Services in other Acts also in 2015-16.

100. In order to improve the Labour-Industry Relations, the State Government proposes to carryout amendments in Labour Laws, which are archaic and not in the interest of either the employer or the employees. For this purpose, amendments are proposed in Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, Factories Act, 1948, Trade Unions Act, 1926, Contract Labour Act and Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, 1946, etc.

101. To provide useful guidance to youth, seeking employment opportunities within the State, outside the State and abroad, I also propose to start Employment & Career Guidance in all the existing District Employment Exchanges.

Transport. **102.** Speaker Sir, our effort is to provide safe, reliable and comfortable travelling facility to the public. 510 new buses have already been purchased by HRTC and 800 more new buses are being purchased under JNNURM.

103. The Taxes on Goods Transport Vehicles and the Passengers Contract Carriage Vehicles are required to be paid to the Department of Excise & Taxation, whereas other taxes on these vehicles are paid to the Department of Transport. To bring Taxes on vehicles under one department, it is proposed that the realisation of PGT on Goods Transport Vehicles and the Passengers Contract Carriage Vehicles except Additional Goods Tax will be transferred to the Department of Transport, which will prepare a new Vehicle Tax Act having fixed amount/rate, based on the capacity of vehicles.

104. There is a strong felt need for the Construction of New Bus Stands and to upgrade the existing ones in the State. I, therefore, propose to provide a budget of ₹ 10 Crore to the Department of Transport for the purpose. Further, Public Toilets will be constructed at every bus stand to facilitate the passengers.

105. Considering the services being provided by the HRTC and to improve its financial health, I propose to provide ₹ 200 Crore in the shape of Grant and Equity to it in 2015-16.

106. Speaker Sir, Roads are vital for the State of Himachal Pradesh. There was just 288 Kms. of motorable roads length in the State at the time of Independence. As of today, we have a network of 33,737 Kms. of motorable roads in the State, which has opened new vistas for development.

Roads &
Bridges.

107. NABARD has been playing a crucial role in developing the road infrastructure in the State. The State has usefully

utilised the NABARD funding and we have been able to complete 2,381 Projects by availing credit of ₹ 2,000 Crore. I am happy to inform the House that NABARD has conferred “सर्वश्रेष्ठ नाबार्ड पार्टनरशिप अवॉर्ड” on the Department of Public Works for the excellent work done in RIDF.

108. It is important to ensure the quality of works as per specifications in the PWD. The Government of India appoints National & State Level Quality Monitors to ensure quality execution of works under ‘*Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*’ (PMGSY). I announce that the State Government will also appoint Quality Monitors to ensure quality execution of other works. I also propose that regular Performance Audit by third party will be started and a system of Awards and Incentives will be introduced based on the Performance Audit Reports.

109. With the persistent efforts in previous two years, the World Bank State Roads Project has shown tremendous progress. Out of the ten projects sanctioned for up-gradation under the Project, six have been completed and one project is likely to be completed by June, 2015 and another by December, 2015. The remaining two projects namely; ‘Theog - Kotkhai-Hatkoti - Rohroo Road’ and ‘Ghumarwin - Sarkaghat Road’ have been retendered and their progress is being regularly monitored.

My Government has also taken up the 2nd phase of the Himachal Pradesh State Roads Project amounting to ₹ 3,800 Crore with the Government of India for World Bank funding.

110. Speaker Sir, with the sanction of five new National Highways of 632 kilometre length namely, ‘Manali - Sarchu’,

‘Samdhu - Gramphoo’, ‘Purana Matour-McLeod Ganj’, ‘Katori Bungalow - Bharmour’ and ‘Amb - Mubarakpur’, we have now 14 National Highways with a total length of 1,784 Kms. in our State. Land Acquisition for the development of National Highways including Construction of Bye-Passes for the important towns will be given Top Priority during 2015-16.

111. During 2014-15, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India has accorded priority to the construction of Railway Over-bridges / Bridges on State Highways and Major District Roads under Central Roads Fund. Accordingly, 14 Bridges amounting to ₹ 56 Crore have been got sanctioned. In addition to this, Projects amounting to ₹ 37 Crore under Inter-State Connectivity have also been approved. Moreover, adequate budget would be provided for widening of State and major District roads. Our roads need to be made safe and we have to minimise the accidents. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 50 Crore for 2015-16 for installing Steel Crash Barriers on accident prone sites.

I propose a total budget provision of ₹ 2,722 Crore for the Public Works Department.

112. Speaker Sir, Railway network is negligible in the State. My Government has agreed to bear the 25 per cent cost for the ‘Bhanupali - Bilaspur - Beri Broad Gauge Rail Line’ and 50 per cent in case of ‘Chandigarh - Baddi Broad Gauge Rail Line’. The estimated cost of ‘Bhanupali - Bilaspur - Beri Broad Gauge Rail Line’ is more than ₹ 2,964 Crore and Chandigarh - Baddi Broad Gauge Rail Line is more than ₹ 1,672 Crore.

113. Speaker Sir, the Government's major source of revenue is from Excise and Taxation. For effective and transparent tax collection and to facilitate dealers, e-Payment is being made compulsory for all registered dealers under the Himachal Pradesh Value Added Tax Rules, 2005 and Central Sales Tax (Himachal Pradesh) Rules, 1970.

114. The Government proposes a simplified Scheme of Deemed Assessment to the dealers, whereby they will not be required to go through the regular assessment procedure and visit the offices of the Excise and Taxation Department. They will be intimated about the Deemed Assessment on the website of the Excise & Taxation Department and also through SMS. The necessary amendment in the VAT Act is being introduced in this session itself.

115. With a view to make transportation of goods hassle free and to prevent congestion at the barriers, the vehicles leaving the State have already been exempted from stopping at the barriers. Now, I take pleasure in announcing that the trucks with full on-Line declaration of goods and entering Himachal will also not be required to stop at the barriers mandatorily. Necessary amendment in the VAT Act in this regard is being introduced in this session itself.

116. To save the dealers from the hassle of uploading different returns under the different Acts, through separate Login-id, the Department of Excise and Taxation, will provide a common Login-id through which a dealer will be able to upload all his returns under different Acts.

117. Presently Dhabas, Halwai, Chai and Chat Shops are exempted from payment of VAT, if their turn-over is less than ₹ 5 Lakhs. I am happy to announce that from 1st April, 2015, the Exemption Limit for these Dealers will be raised to ₹ 8 Lakhs.

118. There are about 47,000 Small Traders paying tax to the State having a turn-over of less than ₹ 25 Lakhs. They have been making a request to cover them under Accidental Insurance. I have considered their demand and am happy to announce that Group Accidental Insurance with a cover of ₹ 2 Lakhs will be started for such traders for which premium will be paid by the State Government.

119. At present, the Dealers having turn-over up to ₹ 25 Lakh, who make purchases or sales within the State, are only covered under the Lump-Sum Scheme of Tax Payment under the VAT Act. I am happy to announce that Dealers, making even the Inter-State Purchases or Sales, will also be brought under the Lump-Sum Scheme. This will benefit a large number of Small Dealers in the State.

120. I am also happy to announce that VAT, on Fabrication of Body of Trucks and Buses, will be reduced from 13.75 per cent to 5 per cent. The Exporters making purchases of industrial inputs within the State for export purpose, will be provided the facility to purchase goods Tax Free within the State, on submission of requisite form. The CGCR Tax levied on Packaged Water Bottles will be reduced to make the packaged

water industry competitive with other States. The State Government has already amended rules to provide timelines within which VAT refunds have to be made. It will be ensured that the VAT refunds are made to the Dealers within the time limits fixed.

Tourism. **121.** Speaker Sir, we want to promote sustainable tourism in the State. My Government has recently approved Construction of Rope Ways at Shimla and Aadi - Himani. The approval of 'Dharamshala - McLeod Ganj' and 'Palchan - Rohtang Ropeways' is also under consideration. I also propose to develop various other ropeways in the State, such as; Shree Naina Deviji, Deoth-Sidh, Bijli Mahadev & Neugal for which the bidding process would be undertaken in 2015-16. Feasibility study of the Ropeway and other tourist facilities at Bashal Kanda (in Shimla and Kinnaur Districts) will also be completed in 2015-16.

122. We also propose to execute the Tourism Infrastructure Projects under the Asian Development Bank loan of US \$ 62 Million in 2015-16 to promote Community Based Tourism Activities in villages including skill development and training to about 3,000 men and women in different villages.

123. To attract more airlines for carrying out flight operations and boost the tourist inflow in the State, we have recently reduced the rate of Tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel for non-scheduled airlines from 27 per cent to 1 per cent. New helipads will be developed near Shimla as well as near other tourists destinations in Himachal. Private parties would be

invited to start Helicopter Service from Chandigarh to Shimla and other tourist destinations.

124. Magical and Circus performances are the age old Arts, which provide healthy entertainment to the people. With a view to promote these Arts, I am happy to announce that all Magical and Circus Shows will be exempted from Entertainment Duty for the next ten years.

125. To encourage the Adventure Tourism in the State, we propose to organise the Paragliding World Cup at Bir-Billing. Adventure Sports Rules are being amended for the safety and protection of the tourists. We also propose simplification of the existing Aero-Sports Rules to facilitate the operators.

126. Speaker Sir, education is at the heart of human resource Education. development. As a result of progressive Policies of the Government, the literacy levels of the State, which were merely 32 per cent at the time of Statehood, have now reached at 82.80 per cent. We have 15,428 Government Schools in the State.

Thus, we have almost reached a stage of saturation as far as opening of Schools are concerned, as the enrolment levels are falling due to reduction in the birth rate. Now, the main focus of the Government will be towards the improvement of quality of education, as the learning levels have shown a downward trend especially in the Primary Schools.

127. Speaker Sir, Edmund Burke has rightly said,

***“ Reading without reflecting is
like eating without digesting ”.***

For improving the quality of education at the elementary level, my Government has to re-introduce assessment of 5th and 8th classes through HP Board of School Education, in convergence with the '*Sarav Shiksha Abhiyaan*'. Further, a class-wise and subject-wise basic competencies will be identified and compiled in the shape of Learning Standards to ensure that each and every child acquire these competencies at the end of each class. The School Management Committees will be strengthened to further ensure quality education in schools.

128. Teachers are the architect of a nation. To recognise the services of good teachers, I announce that an extension of two years will be given to the National Awardee Teachers. Besides, one additional increment will also be given to them in lieu of Cash Prize.

129. Speaker Sir, Teachers require regular updating of knowledge pertaining to their subject. In this direction, the State has started the '*Swayam Siddham Project*', whereunder we have designed a web portal on which the teachers can upload the problems being faced by them in transacting any topic related to Class - 9th to 12th. The solution to such problems will be provided by an expert group of teachers. This will save the time of teachers, as training and guidance will be available to them within the school premises.

130. To strengthen the teaching learning activities in schools, the Government has distributed 7,500 Net Books/Laptops to the meritorious students of 10th and 12th Classes of Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education under

‘Rajiv Gandhi Digital Yojana’ in 2014-15. I have pleasure in announcing that 10,000 Net books/Lap-tops will be given to the meritorious students in 2015-16.

131. Employment & Career Guidance/Counselling will be started in all 10+2 Schools & Colleges of the State to guide the students about trainings and career choices.

132. ***‘Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyaan’*** (RUSA) is being implemented in the State on the funding pattern of 90 : 10 (Central share and State share) to improve the Higher Education System. We have already constituted a State Higher Education Council (SHEC). The Semester System and Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) has been started for the undergraduate classes in the Colleges across the State. One Engineering College at Nagrota Bagwan has been opened under RUSA in 2014-15. My Government proposes to establish another Engineering College at Jeori in District Shimla under RUSA. I also announce that the Campus of the HP University will be made fully ‘WI-FI’ for which Additional Grant will be released to the HP University.

133. Himachal has been a haven for the fine arts like paintings and sculptures. We are known for Pahari Miniature Paintings world over. With the passage of time, these arts are dying and therefore, there is an urgent need to preserve and promote these and other Fine Arts. I, therefore, propose to open an exclusive College of Fine Arts in the State to teach Visual & Fine Arts such as Drawing & Painting, Sculptures and other Applied Arts.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 5,077 Crore for the Department of Education for 2015-16.

Technical
Education.

134. Speaker Sir, ITIs play a very important role in providing technical skills, which lead to employment of the youth. At present the intake capacity in both Government as well as private ITIs is about 36,500. I propose to expand the intake capacity in ITIs. It is proposed to start demand driven and employment oriented trades in the existing Government ITIs, which will increase the student intake by 2,500. Further to bring excellence in Technical Education at ITI level, I am happy to announce that 10 new State of the Art ITIs will be opened in the State in which instead of having different trades, training will be imparted only in a group of inter-related trades with strength of 400 students in each ITI.

My Government further proposes to upgrade two of the existing Government ITIs located at Nalagarh in District Solan and Baroh in District Kangra as Model ITIs for which funds will be sought from the Government of India.

135. We also intend to encourage establishment of new ITIs in private sector in tribal, hard areas and the backward Panchayats in the State. Therefore, I announce that any Organisation, which sets up ITI in these areas will be considered for providing Government land on lease on a token amount of ₹ 1. If the ITI is set up on private land, only 50 per cent of Stamp Duty will be charged. I, also propose to provide ₹ 10 Lakh as Building Grant after starting of the ITI, in the private sector, in these areas.

136. The Government of India has sanctioned a Regional Vocational Training Institute (RVTI) for Women in our State for which Government has leased out an adequate piece of land at Jhundla in District Shimla. The classes will be started from the Academic Session of 2015-16.

137. In order to facilitate ITI students of the State, we propose to grant equivalency in respect of qualification of National Trade Certificate and National Apprenticeship Certificate being awarded by the NCVT, Government of India, to that of Senior Secondary *i.e.* 10 + 2 level, for the purpose of seeking admission in Colleges, by passing some additional papers through the HP Board of School Education (State Open School).

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 189 Crore for the Department of Technical Education.

138. My Government is committed to provide employment to the unemployed youth of the State and to increase their employability through appropriate skilling on a mission mode. I am happy to announce that '***HP State Skill Development Corporation***' will be set up, which will plan, co-ordinate and implement most of the Skill Development Schemes of the State. It will also encourage public - private interface for skilling the youth on a large scale.

Skill
Develop-
ment.

The State Government also proposes to access funding through Asian Development Bank to facilitate providing quality and certified skills to unemployed youth to ensure their gainful employment. The Project will be implemented for a period of five years to Skill one Lakh Unemployed Youth of the State.

Speaker Sir,

“ हमने जब भी पँख खोले हैं, उड़ानों के लिए,
हम चुनौती बन गए हैं, आसमानों के लिए। ”

139. With the aim of promoting skills and improving employability of students, Vocational Education in Trades like Automobiles, Retail, Security, ITeS, Healthcare, Tourism and Agriculture from 9th to 12th Class have been started from 2014-15. My Government proposes to extend this vocational education in another 100 Government Senior Secondary Schools for which about 200 Vocational Teachers will be appointed in 2015-16.

140. My Government also proposes to invite reputed organisations to open a '*Skill University*' in Himachal Pradesh.

141. We also want to equip our rural and urban youth with appropriate skills. We aim at Skill Development of 8,000 Rural Youth belonging to BPL category under '*National Rural Livelihood Mission*' (*Aajivika Scheme*) and 5,000 Urban Poor under '*National Urban Livelihood Mission*' (*NULM*) in 2015-16.

I also propose a budget outlay of ₹ 100 Crore for 2015-16 for the '*Skill Development Allowance Scheme*' being implemented in the State.

Langauge,
Art &
Culture.

142. Speaker Sir, for regular upkeep and maintenance of the Temples, the lands of which were vested in State

Government or the tenants and are left in financial difficulty, we constituted a revolving fund of ₹ 5 Crore during 2014-15. I propose to provide additional budget of ₹ 5 Crore for this purpose in 2015-16.

143. The State of Himachal Pradesh has rich heritage of centuries old Temples, Forts and other Historical Monuments. My Government is committed to preserve this heritage for the posterity. Presently, the Grant up to a maximum of ₹ 50,000 per case is provided for Repair and Restoration of Temples/Monuments, etc., which is a meager amount. I, therefore, propose that Old Temples/Monuments of architectural significance will be provided Grant to restore the old glory, as per the requirement.

144. Last year we organised a series of cultural events in the historical 'Gaiety Theatre' under the theme 'Shimla Celebrates', which received an overwhelming response from the tourists, artists and the local populace. I propose to organise such functions in Auditorium as well as in open spaces, where large gathering of public could watch such programmes.

145. For organisation of various cultural events, we intend to construct Indoor Auditoriums at all the district Head Quarters, where such facility does not exist. Accordingly, I propose a budget provision of ₹ 25 Crore, in 2015-16.

146. Speaker Sir, my Government is committed to involve the youth of the State in the task of National Reconstruction and to harness their energies towards Eradication of Social

Youth
Services &
Sports.

Evils. My Government intends to construct Multi-purpose Indoor Sports Complex in district headquarters, where this facility does not exist and also propose to develop Sports Fields/facilities and open Sports Hostels at some places. Accordingly, I propose a budget provision of ₹ 35 Crore, in 2015-16 for these works. I am also happy to announce that a Football Academy will be set up at Dharamshala.

147. Youth constitute 40 per cent of the total population of the State, who need ample opportunities for the self-expression and self-development. To empower youth activities in the State, the Annual Grant to Youth Clubs was enhanced from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 18,000 in 2014-15. I propose to increase it further to ₹ 20,000 in 2015-16.

Information
& Public
Relations

148. Speaker Sir, print and electronic media is the most effective medium of disseminating information. All of us know, how significant role our media played in the freedom movement of our country. I am reminded of a couplet of renowned Urdu Shayar - '*Aqbar Allahabadi*', which highlights the significance of our press :-

“ खींचो ना कमानों को, ना तलवार निकालो,
जब तोप मुक़ाबिल हो, तो अख़बार निकालो ”

I am happy to announce a Group Accident Insurance Coverage Scheme to All Accredited and Recognised Journalists from 2015-16. All Accredited Correspondents will be provided Group Accident Insurance cover up to ₹ 5 Lakh and Recognised Correspondents up to ₹ 3 Lakh.

149. I had announced in the previous budget to give ₹ 1 Crore for the Construction of Press Clubs in the State. I propose to keep a budget provision of ₹ 1 Crore for this purpose in 2015-16 also.

150. Speaker Sir, my Government is committed to provide affordable and quality health care services to all the people of the State. I am happy to inform the House that an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will be established in District Bilaspur. Three Medical Colleges will be established at Nahan, Chamba and Hamirpur at a cost of ₹ 189 Crore each. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for setting up these Colleges have been signed with the Government of India and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have also been sent for approval.

Health &
Medical
Education.

151. The Government also proposes to encourage private sector for opening the Medical Colleges in the State. Expression of Interest will be invited from the interested parties for the setting up of Medical College in the State.

152. To provide Tertiary Care Services, a Super Specialty Block will be constructed at IGMC, Shimla at the cost of ₹ 150 Crore. I also propose to strengthen the Burn Unit in Dr. RPGMC Kangra at Tanda at a cost of ₹ 5 Crore. Burn Units will be established in all the District Hospitals of the State in phased manner. In order to provide Specialised Medical Services in the Tribal and Remote Areas of the State, the State Government will launch a Pilot Tele-Medicine Project in PPP mode in CH Keylong and Kaza, 25 CHCs of Sirmour and Chamba Districts and CHC Dodra-Kawar.

153. To strengthen the health services in the State, 7,750 Asha Workers will be placed in the villages after their training. We also propose to fill up 200 posts of Doctors and 500 posts of Para-Medicals.

154. With the changing lifestyles, we find an increased incidence of lifestyle diseases like diabetes. I propose to provide the facility of Blood Sugar Testing at the level of Health Sub-Centres.

155. The World Bank in its Report, released recently, has highlighted the likely increase in ageing population of the State. Three Geriatric Wards are already functional in the District Hospitals of Chamba, Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti. I propose to start such wards in all other districts.

156. Speaker Sir, Ekal Naaris and the Senior Citizens above 80 years of age are the most vulnerable group as far as health issues are concerned. I am happy to launch a new Scheme namely; '*Mukhya Mantri State Health Care Scheme*' for treatment of both the basic and critical ailments, for the Ekal Naaris and Senior Citizens above 80 years of age not covered under RSBY or any other Medical Reimbursement Scheme, irrespective of their income level.

Speaker Sir,

“ बहुत ही आसान है, ज़मीं पर आलीशान मकान बना लेना,
दिल में जगह बनाने में, ज़िन्दगी गुज़र जाती है। ”

157. The children are our future and their health is of paramount importance. I propose the Dedicated Mobile Health Teams will visit the Educational Institutions regularly for the diagnosis of health problems afflicting the children. Appropriate treatment for the diseases thus diagnosed, will be provided in the Government as well as empanelled Private Hospitals, Free of Cost.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 1,478 Crore for the Department of Health and Medical Education.

158. Ayurveda Department is playing a significant role by Ayurveda. providing better health services in the State through its wide institutional network. I am happy to inform this August House that we have increased BAMS seats from 50 to 60 at Rajiv Gandhi Government Post-Graduate, Ayurvedic College, Paprola from the next Academic Session.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 218 Crore for the Ayurveda Department.

159. My Government is committed to the welfare of the Women & Child Development. women and children in the State. Presently, financial assistance of ₹ 2,500 is provided under the '*Scheme of Self-Employment*' to Women with family income up to ₹ 35,000 per annum for starting petty businesses. I am happy to announce that this Financial Assistance will be raised to ₹ 5,000 in 2015-16.

160. Speaker Sir, the child sex ratio (0 - 6 years) of our State, as per 2011 Census is 1,000 : 909, which is adverse towards the girl child. Though, there is a slight improvement over the

ratio 1,000 : 896 of 2001 Census. However, the situation is still grim particularly in areas of the State bordering Punjab, where child sex ratio is very adverse. These areas, therefore, need a special focus. To check this malpractice, a '***System of Tracking of Pregnancy***' under the vigil and monitoring of Anganwari Workers, Asha Workers and Village Level Monitoring Support Committees will be institutionalised. The PNDT Act will be strictly enforced in the State. A Campaign will be launched simultaneously to bring a change in the mindset of the people towards girl child. I also seek valuable suggestions of the Hon'ble Members of this August House to deal with this serious social issue.

161. To create positive attitude towards girl child, I announce that the girls belonging to the families having up to two daughters without any male issue will be given preference in the appointment as Anganwari Workers/Helpers. Further, I announce that Free Medical Facility will be provided to all girl child up to the age of 6 years in Government hospitals.

162. Speaker Sir, I am happy to announce that the incentive granted under '***Indira Gandhi Balika Surakhsha Yojana***' to couples adopting permanent family planning method after single girl child will be enhanced from ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 35,000 and for those adopting permanent family planning method after two girl children, it will be enhanced from ₹ 20,000 to ₹ 25,000.

163. Presently, Scholarship ranging from ₹ 300 to ₹ 1,500 per month per girl child from 1st to 10 + 2 standard, is being provided up to two girls of BPL families under '***Beti Hai Anmol***

Yojana'. I am happy to announce that this Scholarship will be increased by 50 per cent from 2015-16. I also announce that the Government will bear the expenditure of further studies in Government Institutions in respect of the girls even after leaving the Children Homes.

164. There is a serious problem of malnutrition amongst children in Himachal Pradesh. Addressing malnutrition, requires a multi-pronged approach. The Mid-day Meal Scheme will be improved. The mothers of the students will decide the menu and in rotation, one mother will supervise the preparation and serving of food to the students in school. Health check-up will be done in Schools and Anganwaris on regular basis. The distribution of Supplementary Nutrition in ICDS for the children and pregnant women will be monitored by involving Ward Committees and providing regular information to Gram Panchayats. Intensive Awareness Campaign about food behaviour, hygiene and diseases will be launched all over the State, for which I propose adequate budget provision. A Committee of Experts will be constituted to suggest various measures to be taken to tackle the problem of malnutrition.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 371 Crore for the Department of Women & Child Development.

165. Speaker Sir, our Government is committed to the upliftment of the under privileged and weaker sections of the society. We are providing Social Security Pension to 3,04,921 persons of different categories under various Pension Schemes.

SCs, OBCs
& Minority
Affairs.

Our support to all these categories will continue with greater spirit. I am happy to announce that the Social Security Pension of Old Age and Widows will be enhanced from ₹ 550 to ₹ 600 and that of the persons with disabilities of more than 70 per cent from ₹ 750 to ₹ 1,100. Pension to persons above 80 years, not drawing any other Pension, will be increased from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 1,100 in 2015-16. All pending Pension Cases numbering 35,000, will be decided and Pension will be sanctioned in favour of eligible applicants with effect from 1st April, 2015. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 317 Crore for Social Security in 2015-16.

166. The State Government proposes to revamp the *'Integrated Scheme for Older Persons'* with an aim to improve their quality of life by providing them basic amenities like Shelter, Food, Medical Care, etc., through the Non-Profit Organisations. I propose to provide Grant-in-Aid to these organisations up to 80 per cent of the cost of Project subject to a limit of ₹ 1 Crore.

167. In the Follow-up Programme, at present ₹ 1,200 per beneficiary is being provided under the Scheme for purchase of Sewing Machine for Self-Employment and the remaining cost is borne by the beneficiary. I propose to enhance this amount to ₹ 1,800.

168. Speaker Sir, Minorities and their welfare has always been a major area of our concern. In Himachal Pradesh, we have made special efforts for their development and welfare and I have no hesitation in claiming that the atmosphere of

communal harmony in our State, can be a guiding light for the rest of the country. To further this commitment, for all round development of minorities and especially to promote their educational and self-employment status, I announce setting up a Corpus Fund with Government contribution of ₹ 2 Crore to be made in 2015-16.

169. My Government is deeply concerned for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Mentally Retarded Children. Considering the significant role being played by the Prem Ashram, Una in educating and rehabilitating them, their existing capacity of 30 children has been enhanced to 50 children. We further propose to enhance the Per Child Grant from ₹ 3,000 to ₹ 4,500 per month. My Government also proposes to provide Grant to the Private Institutions, who open Homes for the Mentally Retarded, Deaf & Dumb and Orphan. We propose to run another such Institution of equal capacity at Hira Nagar, District Shimla. Further, all the vacant posts of Specialised Teachers of various Ashrams run by the Government will be filled up. The buildings of these Ashrams need repair and up-gradation. I propose a budget provision of ₹ 5 Crore for the Repair, Renovation & Addition of these buildings.

As an additional education aid, I propose to provide Talking Laptops to Visually Challenged Students studying in Government Schools / Institutions.

170. The representation of Himachalis in Class-I Civil Services at national level is very less. To facilitate the

candidates, I am happy to announce that all Bonafide Himachalis, who qualify the Preliminary Examination for Civil Services conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, will be given a Coaching Assistance of ₹ 30 Thousand per candidate, irrespective of income and caste.

The students of Himachal Pradesh, who will be selected in IITs, IIMs will continue to get a cash incentive of ₹ 75,000. All such meritorious students will be publically honoured.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 1,503 Crore for the SCs, OBCs & Minorities Affairs Department.

Tribal
Develop-
ment.

171. Equitable and balanced development of scheduled areas and welfare of tribal people continues to be the top priority of my Government. Accordingly, I propose an outlay of ₹ 432 Crore for the Tribal Sub-Plan 2015-16. The total budget allocation for Tribal Areas is proposed to be ₹ 985 Crore including the Non-Plan.

Welfare of
Ex-
Servicemen
& Freedom
Fighters.

172. Speaker Sir, the Government enhanced the Financial Assistance to the 2nd World War Veterans in 2014-15 from ₹ 750 to ₹ 2,000 per month. I propose to further enhance it to ₹ 3,000.

173. I am also happy to announce that an amount of ₹ 2 Crore will be provided in 2015-16 for the Repairs and Maintenance of Sainik Rest Houses all over the State to facilitate the Ex-Servicemen. Further, I propose to provide ₹ 3 Crore for establishment of War Memorial Museum at Dharamshala.

174. To strengthen the Police Force, we have recently approved filling up of 800 posts of Police Constables. Speaker Sir, as per the existing system, the basic unit of police is the Police Station, which is responsible for management of crime including its recording, registration, investigation and legal disposal. Though there are 128 Police Posts in the State to assist the Police Stations, yet they do not have the powers to register the FIRs. As a result, people have to travel long distances to reach the Police Station to lodge the FIRs. I, therefore, propose that henceforth all the Police Posts in the State will be re-designated as Subordinate Police Stations enabling them to register FIRs. It is also proposed that all these Subordinate Police Stations will be fully computerised and linked through broadband with the National Crime & Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) Project.

Home/Law
& Order.

175. A new breed of criminals, who commit crimes in the cyber space, has emerged. We want to tackle this threat proactively and thus, I propose that a state of art '*Centre for Cyber Security Investigations & Innovations*' will be established in Himachal Pradesh, which will also be notified as the '*Cyber Crime Police Station*'.

176. With the posting of Women Police Officers in every Police Station of the State, the confidence of women is steadily increasing. As per announcement made in my previous Budget Speech, two Women Police Stations have been opened and made functional in Dharamsala and Shimla. Recently, another Women Police Station has also been made functional at Mandi.

In addition, my Government proposes to open two more All-Women Police Stations at Baddi and Kullu in 2015-16.

I also propose to provide ₹ 20 Crore for Police Housing in 2015-16. Further, adequate budget would be provided for construction/renovation of Police Stations.

177. At present, Voice Analysis and Digital Facility are not available in the State, hence voice and digital samples are sent outside the State, causing delay in investigation of crime. I propose to create one Voice Analysis and one Digital Forensic Division in the State Forensic Science Laboratory at Junga. I also announce setting up of one Mobile Forensic Unit in Bilaspur.

DNA Technology is essential for establishing identity in various criminal and civil cases due to its better evidential value. At present this technology is available at State Forensic Science Laboratory, Junga. We propose to extend this technology to the Regional Forensic Science Laboratories at Mandi and Dharamshala also.

178. Himachal Pradesh Home Guards have been providing valuable services to the Civil Administration as well as different Departments and other organisations of the Government. One new Home Guards Company has been opened at Chopal in District Shimla this year. My Government enhanced the remuneration of Home Guards volunteers from ₹ 225 to ₹ 260 per day in 2014-15. I am happy to announce that their remuneration will be further raised to ₹ 280 per day.

179. Speaker Sir, the Fire Services provides emergency services to the general public at the time of fire incidents, natural and man-made disasters in the State. The Government proposes to open three more Fire Posts at Ghumarwin, Sarkaghat and Sunni in 2015-16.

I propose a total budget outlay of ₹ 887 Crore for the Police, Home Guards & Fire Services during 2015-16.

180. Vehicular Traffic related cases are on the rise and the judicial officers have to spent much of their time for dealing with such cases. I, therefore, propose to create 6 Posts/Courts of Mobile Traffic Magistrates in the State.

Judicial
Adminis-
tration.

181. Speaker Sir, employees are the strong arms of the Government. I announce that 5,000 functional posts will be filled in 2015-16.

Employees'
Welfare &
Pensioners'
Welware.

182. Despite financial constraints, we have been extending due benefits to our employees from time to time. We have recently announced release of 7 per cent Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief due from 1st July, 2014 to the State Government Employees/Pensioners to be released with the Salary of April, 2015. This will entail an expenditure of ₹ 400 Crore annually.

183. For giving employment to the family members of the Government employees dying in harness, the Income Limit was increased to ₹ 1.25 Lakh last year. We have further decided to increase this limit to ₹ 1.50 Lakh per annum.

184. The daily wage was increased from ₹ 150 to ₹ 170 last year. I am happy to announce that Daily Wage will be further increased to ₹ 180 in 2015-16. Further, I announce that all Daily Wagers, who will complete seven years of service as on 31st March, 2015, will be regularised. I am also happy to announce that the Part-Time Workers, on completion of eight years of service as on 31st March, 2015, will be made Daily Wagers.

Similarly, we had increased the Honorarium of Part-Time Water Carriers from ₹ 1,300 to ₹ 1,500 per month. I announce that this will be further increased to ₹ 1,700 per month from 1st April, 2015.

185. Presently, the Contract employees are being regularised on completion of six years of service, as on 31st March, 2014. The Contract Employees have been requesting for their regularisation on completion of five years. As promised in the Congress Manifesto, I am happy to announce that all the Contractual Employees, who will complete five years of service as on 31st March, 2015, will be regularised. This will provide additional benefit of ₹ 75 Crore to these employees.

Maternity Leave to the Contractual Female Employees was increased from 12 weeks to 16 weeks. I am happy to announce that this will be increased to 135 days with effect from April, 2015.

I am also pleased to announce that the Daily Wage Workers, Part-Time Workers, Anganwari Workers/Helpers and Mid-Day

Meal Workers, who are not covered under the '*Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana*', will be covered under the '*Mukhya Mantri State Health Care Scheme*' to provide them basic and critical health care. This will benefit thousands of such employees.

186. The residential quarters of the Government employees are far less than the requirement. The existing houses also need upkeep and maintenance. Keeping this in view, I propose to provide additional ₹ 30 Crore budget for construction of new residences for the Government employees especially Class-III and IV. I also propose to provide ₹ 15 Crore budget for the repair of Government residential houses.

187. The Government of India, in the year 2010, had launched a Contributory Pension Scheme called '*Swavalamban Scheme*' for the persons belonging to unorganised sector. Now this Scheme has been re-named as '*Atal Pension Yojana*'. Under this Scheme, any person working in the unorganised sector could contribute ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 12,000 per annum to earn pension after completing 60 years' age. It is proposed that Government of Himachal Pradesh will adopt this scheme, so that the MGNREGA Workers, Agricultural and Horticultural labourers, Shop Workers, and other workers in the unorganised sector could take benefit of this Scheme. Anganwari Workers and Mid-Day Meal Workers can also avail the benefit of the Scheme. The State Government will also make a contribution ₹ 1,000 per annum for next three years in the account of the workers contributing at least ₹ 1,000 per annum under this

Scheme. The State Government will give wide publicity to this Scheme. To begin with, I propose a budget provision of ₹ 10 Crore for catering to One Lakh such workers/subscribers.

Budget
Estimates.

188. Speaker Sir, now I come to the Macro Budget Estimates for 2015-16 and Revised Estimates for 2014-15. As per the Revised Estimates for 2014-15, the Revenue Deficit will be 1.61 per cent and Fiscal Deficit will be 4.01 per cent of GSDP. In 2015-16, the Revenue Surplus will be 0.04 per cent and Fiscal Deficit will be 2.91 per cent of GSDP. As required by the FRBM Act, I am separately presenting the Medium Term Fiscal Plan of the State Government for the period -2015-16 to 2018-19. The full details of the next year's budget are available in the comprehensive budget documents being tabled in this August House.

189. The Total Budget Expenditure estimated for 2015-16 is ₹ 28,339 Crore, out of which Estimated Expenditure on Salaries is ₹ 8,285 Crore, on Pensions it would be ₹ 4,041 Crore, Estimated Interest Payments would be ₹ 2,950 Crore, and Loan Repayments are expected to be ₹ 1,503 Crore apart from ₹ 397 Crore on other Loans and ₹ 1,838 Crore on Maintenance.

190. As per Budget Estimates for 2015-16, the Total Revenue Receipts are estimated at ₹ 23,535 Crore and the Total Revenue Expenditure is estimated to be ₹ 23,488 Crore with a Revenue Surplus of ₹ 47 Crore. The Expected Receipts in Capital Account of the Government are ₹ 3,904 Crore apart from ₹ 900 Crore in Public Account including Provident Fund, etc. Capital Expenditure including Loan Repayments is

estimated to be ₹ 4,851 Crore. The fiscal deficit for 2015-16 is likely to be ₹ 3,285 Crore.

191. Thus, as per the Budget Estimates, against an expenditure of every 100 rupees, the State will have ₹ 83.11, as the Total Receipts including Transfers from the Central Government excluding Loans. The gap of ₹ 16.89 will be met by borrowings. Out of every 100 rupees of State revenue receipts, ₹ 26.94 will accrue from Own Tax Revenues, ₹ 6.41 from Non-Tax Revenues, ₹ 16.33 from Share in Central Taxes and ₹ 50.32 from Central Grants. Out of every 100 rupees spent, Salaries will account for ₹ 29.23, Pensions for ₹ 14.26, Interest Payments for ₹ 10.41, Loan Repayments for ₹ 5.30 and the remaining ₹ 40.80 will be spent on Developmental Works.

192. Speaker Sir, I would like to summarise the main highlights of this budget :—

- **Free Travel Facilities in HRTC buses proposed for the students of ‘Kendriya Vidyalaya’.**
- **Practice of obtaining Affidavits for various purposes replaced with Self-Declaration on Plain Paper.**
- **e-Procurement (e-Tendering) to be extended to more Departments for 100 per cent coverage and transparency in Government procurement process.**
- **Contract Management Information System to be rolled out in the Departments of IPH and Public Works for timely completion of Schemes and their proper monitoring.**

- Amount of '*Vidhayak Khshetriya Vikas Nidhi Yojana*' increased from ₹ 50 Lakh to ₹ 70 Lakh.
- A new Project on Management of Horticultural Crops in the State amounting to ₹ 1 Thousand Crore approved for funding by the World Bank.
- Budget outlay of ₹ 210 Crore proposed for continuing the Food Subsidy Scheme.
- Digital Ration Cards to be issued to All Eligible Residents.
- Additional ₹ 4 Crore proposed for Construction of Godowns/Warehouses for increasing storage capacity of Food Grains in the State.
- ₹ 154 Crore '*Rajiv Gandhi Micro-Irrigation Scheme*' to be launched.
- 50 per cent subsidy proposed for Construction of Lift Irrigation Schemes and Installation of Bore-Wells by the individuals or group of farmers of the State.
- Zone-wise On-Line Soil Fertility Maps to be made available. 1 Lakh Farmers to be provided Soil Health Cards.
- An outlay of ₹ 60 Crore proposed for promoting Off-Season Vegetables.
- New Scheme - '*Establishment of Centres of Excellence for Vegetable Nursery Production*' to be launched.
- 20 Thousand Vermi-Compost Units to be set up with 50 per cent Financial Assistance.
- ₹ 10 Crore will be provided to the HP Marketing Board for Development of Market Yards.

- **New Scheme - ‘*Uttam Chara Utpadan Yojana*’ to be launched for fodder development.**
- **Chaff-Cutter subsidy to be extended to BPL farmers also.**
- **New Scheme - ‘*Mukhya Mantri Kisan Evam Khetihar Mazdoor Jeevan Surakhsha Yojana*’ to provide Insurance cover to the Farmers/Agricultural Labourers.**
- **2 Lakh Square Metre area to be covered under Protected Cultivation of High Value Fruits, Flowers and Vegetables.**
- **1,000 Hectare additional area to be brought under Revamped Apple Rejuvenation Project.**
- **30 per cent additional Subsidy to promote Pollinisation through Honey Bees proposed from the State Government.**
- **Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme to be extended to all Blocks of the State.**
- **₹ 5 Crore proposed for HPMC for converting three Cold Stores into CA Cold Stores.**
- **Veterinary Poly-Clinics to be established in Una and Bilaspur districts.**
- **‘*Gauvansh Samvardhan Board*’ to be constituted.**
- **Milk Procurement Price to be enhanced by ₹ 1 per Litre. HP MILKFED to be provided a Grant-in-Aid of ₹ 15 Crore.**
- **New Scheme to set up Milk Processing & Chilling Units by the Dairy Co-operative Societies with 60 per cent subsidy.**

- **KfW Bank of Germany to fund ₹ 310 Crore for HP Forest Eco-Systems Climate Proofing Project.**
- **₹ 20 Crore for additional material for converting Kacha Water Tanks into Poly-Lined/Pucca Water Tanks in convergence with MGNREGA.**
- **40,000 Hectare area to be developed under Watershed Development Programme by spending about ₹ 50 Crore.**
- **10 Thousand Houses to be constructed under different Housing Schemes, with a subsidy of ₹ 75,000 for each house.**
- **Government to release ₹ 109 Crore to Panchayats. Additional ₹195 Crore also to be released to Panchayats, as per 14th Finance Commission recommendations.**
- **Farmers and Self-Help Groups to be exempted from payment of Stamp Duty on Mortgage Deeds up to the value of ₹ 10 Lakhs.**
- **Stamp Duty and Registration Charges for Mortgage to obtain Education Loan up to ₹ 7.50 Lakh to be exempted.**
- **Stipend to Patwari candidates for training to be enhanced from ₹ 1 Thousand to ₹ 3 Thousand.**
- **Budget provision of ₹ 236 Crore proposed for Disaster Relief.**
- **Water Treatment Plants/Filter Beds to be provided in all left out 512 Water Supply Schemes in next three years with allocation of ₹ 20 Crore for 2015-16.**
- **₹ 45 Crore to be allocated to accelerate the Nadaun Medium Irrigation and Phina Singh Irrigation Project.**

- **An outlay of ₹ 154 Crore proposed for Minor Irrigation Schemes to cover 3,500 Hectares of cultivated land.**
- **An outlay of ₹ 50 Crore proposed for Command Area Development Works.**
- **₹ 330 Crore will be provided to IPH Department to meet the Energy Charges of Water Supply & Irrigation Schemes.**
- **An outlay of ₹ 187 Crore proposed for Flood Protection Works.**
- **Capacity addition of 1,050 MW Hydro-Power to be done in 2015-16.**
- **Solar Projects to be treated as Industrial Projects. Tariff up to 5 MW capacity to be regulated/approved by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission and entire power to be purchased by HPSEBL.**
- **3 LED Bulbs per Domestic Consumer to be provided below market price and the cost at ₹ 10 per LED Bulb to be recovered through electricity bills from consumers.**
- **VAT on LED Bulbs will be reduced from 13.75 per cent to 5 per cent.**
- **Energy Efficient Chullahs certified by TERI or approved by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy to be exempted from VAT.**
- **₹ 380 Crore to be provided to HPSEBL for subsidising electricity to the Domestic Consumers.**
- **₹ 40 Crore to be provided for developing industrial areas in the State and ₹ 20 Crore to be provided to**

Baddi - Barotiwala - Nalagarh Development Authority (BBNDA) for various developmental works.

- **New industries will be charged Entry Tax @ 1 per cent on industrial inputs.**
- **Electricity Duty for Specified Extra High Tension (EHT) Category Consumers to be reduced from 15 per cent to 13 per cent, for Medium & Large Industries except EHT from 13 per cent to 11 percent, for Small Industries from 7 per cent to 5 per cent and for any new industry including the new EHT category industry employing more than 300 Himachalis only 1 per cent for five years.**
- **Two State of the Art Industrial Areas at Kandrouri in Kangra and Pandoga in Una District ₹ 107 Crore and ₹ 112 Crore respectively to be set up.**
- **MGNREGA Workers having worked for 50 days in the preceding 12 months to be registered as beneficiaries with the HP Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.**
- **Employment & Career Guidance to be provided in all the District Employment Exchanges, Schools, Colleges, ITIs, Engineering Institutions.**
- **800 New Buses for HRTC to be purchased under JNNURM.**
- **Tax on Transport Vehicles and Contract Carriages will be transferred to the Department of Transport for the benefit of vehicle owners.**
- **₹ 10 Crore to be provided for construction of New Bus Stands.**

- **Grant-in-Aid and Equity of ₹ 200 Crore to HRTC.**
- **Quality Monitors will be appointed for monitoring the quality of works in PWD.**
- **₹ 50 Crore budget provision for installation of Steel Crash Barriers on the Accident Prone Sites.**
- **State Knowledge Cell on the Climate Change to be strengthened.**
- **e-Payment for effective and transparent Tax Collection to be made compulsory for all registered dealers under VAT & CST.**
- **Scheme of Deemed Assessment to the dealers to be simplified. Common Login-id to be provided to all dealers for uploading of all returns under different Acts.**
- **Trucks entering Himachal with full on-Line Declaration of Goods not to be stopped at Barriers.**
- **Exemption limit for Dhabas, Halwai, Chai and Chat Dealers will be raised to ₹ 8 Lakhs for payment of VAT.**
- **Small Traders with less than ₹ 25 Lakh turn-over to be provided a Group Accidental Insurance cover of ₹ 2 Lakhs.**
- **Inter-State Purchase or Sale also to be brought under Lump-Sum Scheme.**
- **VAT on Fabrication of Truck/Bus Bodies to be reduced to 5 per cent.**
- **The CGCR Tax levied on packaged water bottles to be reduced.**
- **Private parties to be invited to start Helicopter Service from Chandigarh to Shimla and other Tourist Destinations.**

- **Magicians and Circus performances to be exempted from payment of Entertainment Duty for ten years.**
- **Tourism Infrastructure Projects of US \$ 62 Million to promote Community Based Tourism Activities.**
- **Aero-Sports Rules to be simplified for encouraging Adventure Tourism.**
- **Meritorious Students of 10th and 12th Class to be distributed 10,000 Net books/Lap-tops under ‘Rajiv Gandhi Digital Yojana’.**
- **Vocational Training in 100 more Government Senior Secondary Schools to be extended and 200 Vocational Teachers to be appointed.**
- **Extension of Two Years in Service to be given to the National Awardee Teachers. One Additional Increment also to be given to them in lieu of Cash Prize.**
- **One exclusive College for Fine Arts to be opened to promote Visual & Fine Arts.**
- **Existing ITIs to have additional Demand Driven and Employment Oriented Trades and ITIs at Nalagarh in Solan and Baroh in Kangra to be upgraded as Model ITIs.**
- **10 new State of the Art ITIs with related trades and 400 student intake capacity to be opened.**
- **Only 50 per cent Stamp Duty to be charged from entrepreneurs establishing new ITIs on the private land in Tribal & Hard Areas/Backward Panchayats. Building Grant of ₹ 10 Lakh to be provided to them after starting ITI.**

- **Regional Vocational Training Institute for Women to be opened at Jhundla in District Shimla.**
- **HP State Skill Development Corporation to be constituted.**
- **A Skill Development Institute to be opened for Skill Up-gradation of Construction Workers.**
- **8,000 Rural Youth of BPL Category under NRLM and 5,000 Urban Poor under NULM to be equipped with appropriate Skills.**
- **A budget outlay of ₹ 100 Crore proposed for Skill Development Allowance.**
- **Indoor Auditoriums for cultural events to be constructed at district headquarters, where such facility does not exist. ₹ 25 Crore budget proposed for the purpose.**
- **Multi-purpose Indoor Sports Complex to be constructed in district headquarters, where there is no such facility. Sports facilities to be developed in the State. ₹ 35 Crore budget proposed for the purpose.**
- **Annual Grant to Youth Clubs to be enhanced to ₹ 20 Thousand.**
- **All the Accredited and Recognised Journalists to be covered under Group Accident Insurance up to ₹ 5 Lakh and ₹ 3 Lakh respectively.**
- **₹ 1 Crore proposed for Construction of Press Clubs.**
- **All India Institute of Medical Sciences to be established in Bilaspur. 3 Medical Colleges to be established at Nahan, Chamba and Hamirpur at a cost of ₹ 189 Crore each.**

- **A Super Speciality Block for Tertiary Care Services to be constructed in IGMC at a cost of ₹ 150 Crore.**
- **Burn units to be established in all district hospitals in a phased manner.**
- **A pilot Tele-Medicine Project in PPP Mode to be launched in CH Keylong and Kaza and 25 CHCs of Sirmour and Chamba districts and CHC Dodra-Kawar.**
- **7,750 Asha Workers to be placed in villages after training.**
- **200 posts of Doctors and 500 posts of Para-Medicals to be filled up.**
- **Blood Sugar Testing facility to be provided at Health Sub-Centre level.**
- **Geriatric Wards to be started in all district hospitals.**
- **'Mukhya Mantri State Health Care Scheme' to be launched for Treatment of Basic and Critical Ailments of Ekal Naaris and Senior Citizens above 80 years not covered under RSBY or any medical reimbursement scheme.**
- **Study on Hill Towns through PPP Mode. Moreover, Solid Waste Management to be taken up on pilot basis in Sunder Nagar and Dharamshala Clusters in collaboration with Government of Netherlands.**
- **₹ 30 Crore to be provided for execution of Sewerage Schemes in Urban/Semi-Urban areas.**
- **Urban Local Bodies developing Parking Lots/ Facilities to be supported by providing 50 per cent of the Project Cost for which budget provision of ₹ 15 Crore proposed.**
- **Circular/Cart Road in Shimla to be widened.**

- **Additional Grant of ₹ 3 Crore to be provided to MC Shimla for developing Infrastructure for Specific Schemes in the Merged Areas.**
- **Mixed Land Use to be promoted in all Planning Areas.**
- **A new Housing Scheme- '*Land Owners become Partners in development with HIMUDA*' to be launched.**
- **Financial assistance of ₹ 2,500 provided to Women for Self-Employment to be enhanced to ₹ 5,000.**
- **System of tracking of pregnancy through Anganwari Workers, Asha Workers and village level Monitoring Support Committees to be institutionalised to check female foeticide.**
- **Girls belonging to the families having up to two daughters without any male issue to be given preference in the Appointment as Anganwari Workers/Helpers.**
- **Free Medical Facilities to all girl child up to the age of 6 years.**
- **Scholarship per girl child from 1st to +2 standard under '*Beti Hai Anmol Yojana*' to be enhanced by 50 per cent.**
- **Couples adopting permanent family planning after single girl child to get enhanced incentive of ₹ 35,000 and couples adopting permanent family planning after two girls, to get enhanced incentive of ₹ 25,000.**
- **Government to bear expenditure on further studies in Government Institutions in respect of Girls Leaving Children Homes.**

- **Social Security Pension of Old Age, Disabled and Widows to be enhanced to ₹ 600 per month. Persons with Disabilities of more than 70 per cent and Senior Citizens above 80 years to get ₹ 1,100 per month as Pension.**
- **Integrated Scheme for Older Persons to improve their quality of life to be revamped.**
- **The Aid under Follow-up Programme for the Purchase of Sewing Machine by Women to be enhanced from ₹ 1,200 to ₹ 1,800.**
- **A Corpus Fund to be set up with Government contribution of ₹ 2 Crore for Development of Minorities.**
- **All Bonafide Himachalis qualifying UPSC Preliminary Examination for Civil Services to get Coaching Assistance of ₹ 30 Thousand per candidate.**
- **Financial Assistance to 2nd World War Veterans to be increased from ₹ 2 Thousand to ₹ 3 Thousand.**
- **A budget of ₹ 3 Crore for the State War Museum at Dharamshala.**
- **₹ 2 Crore to be provided for repairs of Sainik Rest Houses.**
- **All Police Posts to be designated as Subordinate Police Stations enabling them to register FIRs.**
- **A State of the Art Centre for Cyber Security Investigations and Innovations to be established.**
- **2 more Women Police Stations to be opened.**
- **One Voice Analysis and One Digital Forensic Division to be created in State Forensic Science Laboratory.**
- **Remuneration to Home Guards to be enhanced from ₹ 260 to ₹ 280 per day.**

- **Three more Fire Posts to be opened at Ghumarwin, Sarkaghat and Sunni.**
- **6 additional Post/Courts of Mobile Traffic Magistrates to be created.**
- **5,000 functional posts of different Departments to be filled up.**
- **7 per cent Dearness Allowance & Dearness Relief to the State Government Employees/Pensioners to be released with the salary of April, 2015.**
- **Income Limit for Compassionate Employment to be raised to ₹ 1.50 Lakh per annum.**
- **Daily Wage increased from ₹ 170 to ₹ 180.**
- **Daily Wagers completing seven years of service as on 31st March, 2015 to be regularised.**
- **Part-Timers completing 8 years of service as on 31st March, 2015 to be made Daily Wagers.**
- **Honorarium of Part-Time Water Carriers increased from ₹ 1,500 to ₹ 1,700 per month.**
- **Contract Employees completing five years of service as on 31st March, 2015 to be regularised.**
- **Maternity Leave to the Contractual Female Employees to be increased from 112 days to 135 days.**
- **Daily Wager, Part-Time Workers, Aanganwari Workers/Helpers and Mid-Day Meal Workers to be covered under '*Mukhya Mantri State Health Care Scheme*'.**
- **Additional Budget provision of ₹ 30 Crore for Construction of New Government Residences and ₹ 15 Crore for Repair of Government Residential Houses.**
- **₹ 20 Crore to be provided for Police Housing.**

- **Pension Scheme for MGNREGA Workers, Agriculture and Horticulture Labourers, Shop Workers, Other Workers in the Unorganised Sector.**
- **The Budget for 2015-16 proposed for ₹ 28,339 Crore.**

Conclusion. **193.** Speaker Sir, I have briefly touched upon the major developmental initiatives taken by my Government in the first two years and have attempted to outline the Policies and Programmes to be implemented in 2015-16 for the inclusive growth and development of our State. Respected Sir, this budget is a reflection of our motto, '*Sarav Kalyan Smagra Vikaas*'. It is a forward looking budget giving clear fiscal direction for investment in critical sectors such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Hydro-Power, Irrigation, Drinking Water Supply, Health, Tourism, etc. Speaker Sir, despite financial constraints, we helped each and every section of the society. No developmental project was made to suffer for want of funds. Most of the promises made by us in our Election Manifesto have been fulfilled in just two years. This could become possible through our fiscal prudence, administrative capability and of course, the hard work of our people.

With the following lines, Speaker Sir, I commend the present budget to this August House :—

“कई जीत बाकी है, कई हार बाकी है,
अभी तो जिन्दगी का सार बाकी है,
यहाँ से चले हैं नई मन्ज़िल के लिए,
यह एक पन्ना था, अभी तो किताब बाकी है। ”

Jai Hind

Jai Himachal.