

Respected Speaker Sir,

1. With your permission, I present the budget estimates for the year 2013-2014.

2. At the outset, I would like to sincerely thank the people of Himachal Pradesh for giving us a decisive mandate in the Vidhan Sabha elections held in December, 2012. The people of Himachal Pradesh have rejected the wrong policies of the BJP Government and have reposed full faith in the progressive policies and programmes of the Indian National Congress. This positive turnaround has been possible under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of the UPA, and the dynamic Vice-President of Indian National Congress Shri Rahul Gandhi.

3. Himachal and the hill people have always occupied a special place in the heart of the Congress Leadership at the national level. The Congress under the inspirational leadership of Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar, led a successful campaign for merger of all hill regions of the undivided Punjab leading to the creation of Vishal Himachal. The people of our State are highly grateful to Smt. Indira Gandhi for granting full fledged statehood to Himachal Pradesh on 25th January, 1971, when Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of Indian Republic. I would like to say:

‘कुछ लोग थे कि वक्त के सांचे में ढल गए।
कुछ लोग थे कि वक्त के सांचे बदल गए।।

4. Speaker Sir, our Government is committed to all round and balanced development of all regions of the State and all sections of the society with special focus on the poor and the downtrodden. We have adopted the Congress Manifesto as the policy document of our Government and instructions have been issued to all the departments to formulate policies and programmes in the coming years, keeping in view the provisions of the manifesto. I am glad to inform the august House that many of the promises made in the manifesto are being fulfilled in this first budget itself.

5. Speaker Sir, our Government will provide clean and transparent administration. There will be zero tolerance towards corruption. All the cases pertaining to corruption will be investigated expeditiously and those found involved will be brought to justice by ensuring speedy trial.

The Police is expected to be impartial in its dealings. However, during the tenure of the previous Government, the police was virtually converted into ‘Gestapo’. Some of the Police personnel were involved in unauthorized phone tapping and making fabricated cases. I myself was a victim of one such fabricated case. We will ensure that the police again become a true professional force, serving the people of the State without any fear or favour. I would like to say to the Hon’ble Members sitting in the opposition:-

दुनियां में हैं केवल दो चीजें— फूल और कांटे।
जो आप अपने लिए चाहें, वही दुनियां में बाटें।।

6. Speaker Sir, I have observed that the Government services are not delivered properly to the general public because of complicated procedures and red-tapism. I therefore, announce that every department in State Government will scrutinize it's Acts, Rules and Guidelines and suggest amendments to simplify the procedures to make them public centric. All the departments will complete the exercise within next 3 months. Here I would like to quote Albert Einstein:

Good
Governance.

“We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

So I would expect the civil servants to have citizen centric approach.

7. The State Government is committed to bring efficiency, and transparency in the delivery of Government Services. To ensure time bound delivery of services, HP Public Services Guarantee Act will be implemented strictly. We will bring more departments in the ambit of this Act.

8. The State is increasingly moving towards electronic delivery of citizen services. Presently, 15 services are being provided electronically which will be increased to 49 services in 2013-14. We will also frame “Electronic Services Delivery Rules” to give a legal framework to these services.

9. Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) under which all departments are required to prepare Results Framework Document (RFD) will be

extended to all the departments in 2013-14 to ensure their accountability to achieve the desired results.

10. For ensuring speedy redressal of public grievances received directly or on e-Samadhan portal, we will appoint a **State Commissioner (Public Grievances)** to monitor the timely disposal of public grievances. All the departments will be held accountable for timely redressal of grievances. In addition to this, the “Prashasan Janta ke Dwar Par” camps will be held regularly at various locations to redress grievances on the spot.

11. The 12th Vidhan Sabha has been constituted on the basis of fresh delimitation. Due to this, the boundaries of constituencies have got overlapped with different administrative units causing inconvenience to the people. In order to address this problem, I announce that an “**Administrative Boundaries Re-organization Commission**” will be set up for proper re-organization of boundaries of administrative units of various departments for ensuring better governance.

12. It is a common refrain of the departments that they do not get enough support to try new initiatives. In order to encourage the departments to innovate, I announce setting up of a **State Innovation Fund**, with an initial outlay of ₹5 crore.

Information
Technology.

13. To provide Government Services at the doorstep of the citizen, we will open Lok Mitra Kendras in all the Panchayats of the State. We will provide broadband connectivity under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)

to all the Panchayats to extend IT services and facilitate IT business such as opening of BPOs at Panchayat level to generate additional employment.

14. Under the Aadhaar project we have enrolled more than 57 lakh residents which is more than 80% of our total population. We have also launched the “Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)” programme from January 2013. Now, I announce that DBT facility will be used in future to release funds under all scholarships and various welfare schemes of the State Government.

15. We will encourage setting up of IT parks and Electronic manufacturing clusters in the State.

16. The country for the past few years is passing through a difficult phase caused by unfavourable external circumstances such as the world economic slowdown, oil prices increase and the negative developments in the Eurozone. This resulted in a decline in export growth and industrial profitability. Also, the Reserve Bank kept the interest rates high which resulted in the low Credit Deposit ratio as compared to earlier years. This all has resulted in low growth rate during the current financial year. Despite these constraints, the Indian economy is expected to grow at 5% during 2012-13 as per advance estimates. However, the outlook for 2013-14 is far better as the Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.1-6.7% in 2013-14.

National
Economy.

17. Speaker Sir, Himachal Pradesh has emerged a leader in hill area development. Himachal is an ideal destination for investment in power and tourism sector.

Economic
Scenario of
the state.

Responsive administration and conducive macro-economic conditions have induced a competitive environment in the economy of Himachal Pradesh. The growth target for the 12th five year plan has been fixed at 9% which would seem to be an ambitious target, but I am hopeful that we will accomplish it with the support of the people of the State.

18. As per the Advance Estimates for 2012-13, the Gross Domestic Product of Himachal Pradesh has grown from ₹63812 crore in 2011-12 to ₹72076 crore in 2012-13. The Per Capita Income at current prices has increased from ₹74694 in 2011-12 to ₹82611 in 2012-13.

19. The implementation of the Pay Commission recommendations has impacted the finances of all the States including Himachal Pradesh. Speaker sir, historically State Government by and large follows Punjab pay scales which are based on the recommendations of the Punjab Pay Commission only. The grant of 4-9-14 ACPS and the re-revision of pay scales in the State have increased the salary burden substantially. Speaker Sir, the salary burden was ₹2615 crore in 2007-08 which has increased to ₹6956 crore in 2013-14. Similarly, the pension burden has increased from ₹880 crore to ₹2839 crore and the interest payment burden has increased from ₹1778 crore to ₹2431 crore. The loan dues which were ₹21,241 crore on March, 2008 are expected to be ₹28,513 crore in March, 2013. The State Government expenditure on committed liabilities like salary, pension and interest is nearly 157% of its own tax and non tax revenue. This situation has become unsustainable and we seek the

support of all members of this august House to improve the financial health of the State.

20. During 1996 in my earlier tenure, we had filed a case in Hon'ble Supreme Court for our claim on the BBMB project. I am glad that Himachal Pradesh has finally been granted justice about our rightful claim on the BBMB project through the landmark judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. We will vigorously pursue the matter for release of our claim.

21. We are thankful to Ms. Sonia Gandhi and Hon'ble Prime Minister for introduction of Food Security Bill in the Parliament and keeping an additional provision of ₹10,000 crore in Union Budget for this purpose. When passed, this Bill will be a revolutionary step in providing food security in the country. We will also continue the **State food subsidy scheme** which was started during my previous tenure by providing three dals, edible oil and iodised salt to the ration card holders at subsidized rates. I am proposing an outlay of ₹175 crore for the state food subsidy scheme in 2013-14.

Food
Subsidy.

22. Speaker Sir, I would like to reiterate the commitment towards the fast pace of development of the State made by our Government to the people of the State despite the fiscal constraints.

12th Five
year Plan
& Annual
Plan 2013-
14.

23. A plan outlay of ₹22800 crore for the 12th plan has been got approved from the Planning Commission, which is an increase of 65% over the 11th Plan. In this plan, our focus will be on provision of education and health,

infrastructure like roads, energy, irrigation, drinking water supply and agriculture.

24. The year 2013-14 is the 2nd year of the 12th five year plan. We have proposed an annual plan outlay of ₹4100 crore for 2013-14 as compared to the current year's approved outlay of ₹3700 crore which marks an increase of nearly 11%. The Annual Plan for 2013-14 lays higher priority on sectors such as agriculture, power, roads, education and health. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that 33.45% of the annual plan has been allocated for provision of Social Services which shows our continued commitment towards the socio- economic development of people of state.

25. The UPA Government at the centre is releasing generous funds to the states under various schemes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Health Mission, National Rural Drinking Water Programme, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, ICDS, PMGSY, Indira Awas Yojna, AIBP, JNNURM etc. In order to ensure proper monitoring and implementation of these schemes in the State, I have created a Programme Monitoring Unit in my office.

26. I had a meeting with all the honourable MLAs on 23rd and 24th January this year to seek their priorities on Plan budget. This tradition was started by me in my previous tenure. Hon'ble Members of this House are provided with a local area development fund of ₹50 lakh per year. Further, many MLAs have approached me that they should be granted some discretionary funds for public

purpose. I accede to their demand and announce that every MLA will be given an additional budget of ₹2 lakh to be released in 2 half-yearly instalments as discretionary grant which they can utilize to serve the needy or for any other public purpose.

27. Speaker Sir, Agriculture plays a very Agriculture. important role in the economy of the state. The protected cultivation through polyhouses enhances agriculture productivity. It has come to my notice that at present two different polyhouse schemes are in operation in the state having different funding patterns. Under Horticulture Technology Mission, a subsidy of 50% is being provided whereas under the NABARD scheme, a subsidy of 80% is being provided. I therefore announce that henceforth subsidy for small and marginal farmers for the construction of polyhouses under both the schemes will be increased to 85%.

28. I propose to start “**Integrated Crop Diversification Programme**” to bring additional 3000 Hectare area under vegetable cultivation where farmers will be organized into groups and motivated to diversify from food grains to vegetable crops. I also announce that production of mushroom will be treated as an agriculture activity.

29. I also propose to start “**Mukhyamantri Adarsh Krishi Gaon Yojna**” under which Agriculture Development Plans will be prepared for **68 Panchayats**, one in each assembly constituency in the state on a pilot basis. Each selected panchayat will be provided ₹10 lakh as gap filling

funds for creation and upgradation of agriculture infrastructure. Based on the results obtained, this scheme can be extended to other panchayats.

30. Our Government shall also lay emphasis on promoting Organic Farming through bio-villages. I propose to bring 2000 hectare area under Organic Farming. The Organic Certification Agency in the state will be established during 2013-14, to provide the facility of organic certification to the farmers within the state itself.

31. Speaker Sir, In order to give relief to the small and marginal farmers in the State, I announce that seeds of high yielding variety of maize, paddy and fodder would be provided at 50% subsidy to the farmers for the coming kharif season.

32. We will also give due emphasis on marketing linkages through Modern Whole Sale markets, sub market yards and Cold Storage facilities so that the farmers get remunerative prices of their produce and are protected from exploitation at the hands of middlemen. To ensure proper marketing of farm produce we will construct seven sub-market yards in the state at a cost of ₹20 crore.

33. I announce that the process of registration of tractors for agriculture purpose will be simplified to ensure that the farmers get benefit of exemption from token tax.

34. In order to protect the crops from stray animals, we will take up the work of providing live fencing of fast growing utility trees and shrubs along the boundary of fields

belonging to the small and marginal as well as SC, ST & BPL farmers under MGNREG scheme. I announce that the process of marking of animals will be resumed and those who let loose their cattle in the open on their becoming unproductive will be penalized. For this, the powers of panchayats for imposing fine, under Section 11-A of H.P. Panchayati Raj Act 1996, will be enhanced. Similar amendment will also be made in the Municipal Act. I further announce that one model panchayat, in every district, in which all the cattle registered in the names of individual families are actually with those families and have not been deserted, will be given a cash prize of ₹5 lakh. I also announce that the State Government will provide financial assistance to the NGOs/Trusts for setting up and running of Gaushalas for provision of cowsheds, fodder etc. I propose a budget provision of ₹1 crore for this purpose for 2013-14. I propose an outlay of ₹353 crore for Agriculture in 2013-14.

35. Speaker Sir, horticulture plays an important role in the livelihood of the people as traditional crops are not viable due to difficult geographical conditions and small land holdings. The fruit crops especially apple and mango are sensitive to the vagaries of weather. Therefore, I announce that the weather based crop insurance scheme will continue in 2013-14, with 25% premium to be borne by the State Government. Horticulture.

36. To address the challenges of post harvest losses due to inadequate infrastructure, we will encourage private entrepreneurs to invest in integrated cold chains, grading, food processing and packaging industries for fruits like

kinnu, malta, mango, apple and orange. For this purpose, we will also provide government land on lease at a concessional rate.

37. The Apple Rejuvenation Project was started to replace old apple plantation with the improved varieties. However, it could not yield the desired results because it did not provide for uprooting of old plantation. Now, new guidelines including uprooting of old plantation will be issued so that the apple growers could rejuvenate their old orchards.

38. Under the Market Intervention Scheme, the procurement price of apple, mango, kinnow, malta and galgal will be increased by 50 paise. This will benefit lakhs of farmers and orchardists in the state.

39. The previous government had started the misconceived programme of installation of anti hail gun in an attempt to protect the apple crop from hailstorm which is an obsolete technology not based on any scientific principle. For ensuring effective protection of apple and vegetable nurseries from hail, I announce that our government will provide good quality anti hail nets to horticulturists on 80% subsidy. I propose a budget outlay of ₹165 crore for Horticulture in 2013-14.

Animal
Husbandry.

40. Speaker Sir, Animal Husbandry plays a key role in the rural economy. The Multi disciplinary veterinary services and Farmer's Capacity Building Centre as well as Embryo Transfer technology Laboratory established at Palampur at the cost of ₹3 crore will be made functional

during the Year 2013-14. This will help in speedy improvement in the quality of livestock and milk production in the State.

41. Sheep Breeding Farms of the Department at Jeori (Shimla), Tal (Hamirpur) and Sarol (Chamba) will be strengthened. To augment income of goat breeders, a project for improving productivity of goat will be launched under which 20 clusters having 2000 goats in each cluster will be covered for providing feed supplements, medicines and vaccines to the goats. To provide training to staff and farmers of the state, a fully equipped training centre with hostel facilities will be established at Ghanahatti, Shimla at a cost of ₹1 crore 75 lakh.

42. Himachal Pradesh is well suited to adopt dairy farming as a self employment programme. In order to give a boost to the dairy activity, I announce to increase the procurement price of milk procured by MILKFED from the existing ₹17.80 to ₹18.80 per litre w.e.f. 1st April, 2013. This will benefit nearly 37 thousand milk producing families in the State. To support MILKFED, I propose to increase their grant from ₹11 Crore in 2012-13 to ₹13.5 crore in 2013-14. I propose a budget outlay of ₹260 crore for Animal Husbandry.

43. Himachal has nearly 10,000 fishermen families. The State Government will start a new scheme named Backyard Fish Farming under which fish ponds would be constructed. The Government will also provide financial and technical support in setting up Trout Farms. A sum of

Fisheries.

₹1 crore 90 lakh will be provided for renovation of inland fish landing centres near reservoirs in the state.

Forest and
Wild Life.

44. Speaker Sir, there is a large area of forest land infested with Lantana in the State which affects the productivity of the land and the livelihoods of the people. We have fixed a target of treating 5000 hectare of infested forest area during 2013-14 where species of fuelwood, fodder will be planted to restore their productive status.

45. The herbal wealth of the State requires protection from illegal extraction and also scientific management for generating income for the farmers. During 2013-14, I propose to allocate ₹10 crore to raise 45 lakh herbal plant species, which shall be planted in the state.

46. In view of the problems faced by people living in the wildlife areas, State Government had made a petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court to take out the affected villages from the wild life areas. I am pleased to inform the august House that our case has been accepted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Accordingly, 775 villages will be taken out of the wildlife sanctuary areas, thereby benefitting more than one lakh people.

47. The damage to agriculture and horticulture crops by monkeys has become a serious problem for the farmers of the state. Our Government is conscious of the monkey menace and will take all necessary measures to contain it. Presently, four monkey sterilization centres are working in the state. I propose opening of six new monkey sterilization centres in districts Sirmour, Chamba,

Mandi, Solan, Kangra and Bilaspur. The monkeys come out of forests for want of food. Therefore, we will launch a special programme of planting wild fruit plants and shrubs so that they get sufficient food in their natural habitats. The fruit plants will be procured from the nurseries maintained by the farmers. We will also encourage farmers to grow such crops which are not damaged by monkeys like garlic, ginger and turmeric etc.

48. To protect forests from fire, we have fixed a target of cleaning/maintenance of 1000 kilometre fire lines during 2013-14. We will also formulate a policy for collection and supply of pine needles to the industries for use as fuel and promote setting up of pine needle based industries. I propose a budget outlay of ₹422 crore for the forest department for 2013-14.

49. The Co-operatives are playing a vital role in socio-economic upliftment of rural populace of the State. The State Government is implementing Integrated Cooperative Development Projects at a cost of ₹35 crore in Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Sirmour districts to strengthen co-operative movement in these districts. We will start a new ICDP project for Shimla, Kangra and Kullu districts at a project cost of approximately ₹60 crore.

Co-operation.

50. Speaker Sir, our Government is committed to make every panchayat in the state, a Nirmal Panchayat under "Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan". We will also ensure that all the Government Schools in the state have separate toilets for girls and boys. The toilets will be constructed in schools using MGNREGS funds and gap funding of material component will be done from the state Government fund.

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

51. Speaker Sir, in our previous tenure, we had started State Housing Scheme in the name of Rajiv Awas Yojana. But in 2008, the BJP Government changed the name of the scheme. Now, I announce that the scheme will be renamed as Rajiv Awas Yojana. I further announce to enhance the grant under this scheme from ₹48500 to ₹75000. Under various housing schemes, 10000 houses will be sanctioned in the state during 2013-14.

52. Keeping in view the important services provided by the Block Development Officers for monitoring of development works, I announce a bi-monthly reimbursement of ₹350 to them for use of mobile phone under HP Government CUG scheme.

53. To ensure that Gram Panchayat offices remain open on every working day, I announce that during the next financial year, 200 Panchayat Sahayaks will be recruited so that every Gram Panchayat in the State has either a Panchayat Sahayak or a Secretary.

54. The State Government will provide proper accommodation for Panchayat Ghars in each Panchayat of the State. Therefore, the Rajiv Seva Kendra will be constructed in those Gram Panchayats which are without Panchayat Ghars or having inadequate accommodation.

55. The State Government is committed to strengthen the democracy at the grassroots level by devolving necessary funds to the PRIs. The interim report of 4th State Finance Commission has been received and I am glad to inform you that its recommendations have been

accepted. I propose total fund devolution of ₹244 crore from various sources to PRIs for 2013-14.

56. It has come to my notice that in the BPL list, many eligible families have been left out whereas some ineligible families have been included. In order to ensure that the lists are correctly drawn up, I announce that addition/deletion in the BPL list will be done in the meetings of the Gram Sabhas to be organized on 7th April, 2013.

57. Speaker sir, in order to sustain agriculture and horticulture, soil conservation and retention of moisture in the soil is very important. Watershed development helps in achieving these objectives by recharging of ground water resources and creation of water storage structures. We will bring an additional area of 33,000 hectares under Integrated Watershed Management Programme at a cost of ₹105 crore. Under this scheme, we will also encourage farmers to build water tanks on their land for irrigation. The Mid Himalayan Watershed Development Project is being implemented in the Mid Hill Zone in the State. 102 more Gram Panchayats are being covered under this project at a cost of ₹175 crore.

Watershed
Development.

58. The computerization of Record of Rights is already complete in the state. In 2013-14 we will complete digitization of cadastral maps in districts Chamba, Sirmour, Mandi and Hamirpur so that the people also get digitized copy of map alongwith copy of the record of rights.

Land
Administration.

59. Survey of the Land through modern techniques is being done in Sirmour, Mandi and Hamirpur Districts under National Land Records Modernization Programme. We

will also cover districts Kangra, Kinnaur, Shimla and Una under the scheme during 2013-14 at a cost of ₹25 crore.

60. The e-stamping system for collection of Stamp Duty has been started in 9 districts and remaining 3 districts namely Lahaul & Spiti, Kinnaur and Chamba will be covered in 2013-14. Collection of Registration fee shall also be done through this mechanism. We also propose to replace court fee stamps with electronically generated stamps in the next year. All these measures will facilitate the citizens in getting registration of documents done seamlessly.

61. Keeping in view the emergency services provided by the Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars round the clock, I announce a bi-monthly reimbursement of Rs. 350 to them for use of mobile phone under HP Government CUG scheme.

Irrigation
&Public
Health.

62. The State Government continues to accord top priority for the provision of safe drinking water and extending irrigation facilities. As per the latest census, 89.5% population of the state has been covered with piped drinking water supply, which is the highest amongst all the states. Out of 53201 habitations, 44254 habitations have been provided drinking water supply facility at the rate of 70 LPCD. I propose to provide 70 LPCD to additional 2500 habitations during 2013-14. For the areas, facing scarcity of water, I propose to provide funds to install 2000 hand pumps during the next financial year.

63. Speaker sir, the Government will prepare a Five Year Action Plan to increase the net irrigated area to atleast 50% of the net sown area so that farmers can get assured

crop and livelihood from agriculture. The State Government will give highest priority for the development of command area to ensure that irrigation potential created converts into real benefits to the farmers. I am proposing a budget outlay of ₹20 crore for command area development which will be increased as per the actual demand. I have proposed an outlay of ₹55 crore for 2013-14 for Medium Irrigation Project, Phina Singh in Nurpur Tehsil of Kangra and ₹35 crore for Medium Irrigation Project, Nadaun. We will also take up the work of medium irrigation projects Koncil to Jharera and Mandop Thona to Satyar Khad in District Mandi and Sukka Har in District Kangra. I further propose an outlay of ₹138 crore for minor irrigation during 2013-14 with a physical target of 3000 hectares.

64. In order to protect the valuable arable land of farmers in District Mandi, Hamirpur & Bilaspur from floods, we propose to take up channelization work of Seer Khad in a phased manner. In 1st phase, a DPR amounting to ₹23 crore has been approved for channelization work from Jahu to Bamm area of District Bilaspur. Under 2nd phase, the DPR amounting to ₹62 crore for channelization of Seer Khad from Barchhawar to Jahu is under process. Similarly, the DPRs amounting to ₹48 crore for channelization of Swan River phase-3rd below Santokhgarh bridge upto Punjab border and DPR for channelization of Chhonch Khad in Tehsil Indora, District Kangra amounting to ₹236 crore are under process with Central Water Commission. I propose a total budget outlay of ₹1483 crore for Irrigation and Public Health during 2013-14.

65. Speaker Sir, we had formulated our own “Hydro Power Policy” in 2006 for encouraging investments in the

Power.

hydro sector. I am glad to inform the Hon'ble House that the first cash transfer at the rate of 1% of free power will be made during 2013-14 to the project affected families from the Chamera Project. Earlier, the identified hydro potential of the state was estimated as 23000 MW which has been revised to 27,436 MW as per the latest studies carried out by consultants. We will take steps to harness this additional potential.

66. We have harnessed 8375 MW Hydro Power Potential in the State till date. 260 MW capacity addition is expected to be achieved by March, 2013. We have kept a Capacity addition target of 1918 MW for 2013-14. I am dissatisfied with the above progress. I announce that a High Powered Committee under my chairmanship will be set up to ensure speedy statutory clearances by various departments and execution of micro, mini and large projects.

67. H.P. Power Corporation Ltd is engaged in developing 1111 MW power Generating capacity by 2017 and 2400 MW by the Year 2022. Kashang project phase-1 will be commissioned in 2013-14.

68. In order to ensure 24 hour reliable and quality power to all consumers the distribution network will be strengthened by commissioning of 20 High Voltage Lines of capacity 66-KV & above with an outlay of ₹207 Crore and 55 distribution schemes of capacity 33KV & below shall be taken up for execution with an estimated outlay of ₹156 Crore. The hydro power producers will be asked to pool the transmission lines and also explore the

possibility of laying under-ground cables for evacuation of power to save the precious land.

69. HPSEBL plays an important role in providing electricity to the remotest corners of the state. Soon after assuming office, we have agreed to take over loan liability of ₹700 crore for the financial restructuring of HPSEBL. I announce that HPSEBL will be given equity contribution of ₹75 crore in 2013-14 to strengthen the rural electricity infrastructure. I have also made a provision of ₹230 crore for IPH department for payment of energy charges in order to provide water supply and irrigation facilities to the people of the state at a very concessional rate. In addition, I propose a budget of ₹270 crore for subsidising domestic consumers of electricity.

70. Speaker Sir, we have always accorded top priority to planned industrialization in the State. However, investment has slowed down due to lapse of the special industrial package to Himachal Pradesh. I have strongly taken up the matter with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Union Finance Minister and Union Commerce and Industries Minister for extension of industrial package for the state. Industries.

71. Three new state of the art industrial areas would be developed in district Una, Solan and Kangra. To promote food processing industry, the State Government will come out with a 'Vision Document' and road map within a period of 3 months for promotion of such industry throughout the State. We will also encourage setting up of food parks in the State. We will provide Home Guards on payment basis to industrial units in the state to improve their security environment.

72. A Pharma and Allied Industries Cluster Project is being implemented at Baddi at an estimated cost of ₹80 crore. A Tool Room-cum-Training Centre will be set up at Baddi for which land measuring 15000 square meters has been allotted. This will provide tooling facilities to the industry and also help in skill development of unemployed youth.

73. To attract industrial investment, the State Government will proactively and aggressively follow the approach of "Industry by invitation". The State Government will make concerted efforts to reach out to potential investors by organising special investor meets.

74. The State Government will strengthen the existing system for timely grant of approvals for setting up of industries in the State. The clearances by State Level Single Window Clearances and Monitoring Authority will now be given within a period of 90 days of receiving the application. Various departmental clearances will be ensured within this period before the authority gives the final clearance. The Public Service Guarantee Act will also be suitably amended to ensure time bound clearances by the concerned Departments.

75. Most of the States are charging 2% CST on Inter State trade. I propose a CST @ 1.5% on the existing industrial units in the State with effect from 1st April, 2013. Further, to encourage the setting up of new industrial units in the State, I announce that the new industrial units set up in the State after 1st April, 2013 and those carrying out substantial expansion will be given the facility of concessional CST @ 1%. The benefit of the concessional

CST will be given for five years or till the implementation of GST.

76. Speaker Sir, Under Mukhya Mantri Gramin Parivahan Yojna, the eligible persons will be granted permits for plying of buses on rural roads. During 2013-14 we will identify new routes for grant of permits. We will also liberalize the grant of Maxi-Cab permits. This will not only augment transport services in the rural areas, but will also help in employment generation. Transport.

77. The government will locate suitable land for setting up of Transport Nagars near industrial areas and close to cement factories on PPP basis which will have multiple facilities like parking, vehicle repair shops and eating places. I announce that ₹10 crore will be provided for construction and upgradation of the Bus Stands at Sub Division and Block headquarters.

78. The financial health of Himachal Road Transport Corporation has worsened over time. Therefore, I am proposing grant and equity of ₹160 crore to HRTC in 2013-14. Further, a project for modernization of HRTC fleet will be sent for financing to the multilateral funding agencies.

79. Speaker Sir, we have always assigned top priority to the road sector and consequently now we have 32771 Kms. of motorable road length in the state as against only 288 Kms. when Himachal came into existence. Presently we have 12 National Highways having length of 1553 Kms. We have sent a proposal to Government of India for declaring 8 additional roads as National Highways. Roads
Bridges.

80. Our Government in its previous term, had got sanctioned the State Road Project involving a cost of ₹1365 Crore from the World Bank for improving the road network in the state. However, I am pained to see that the construction of roads under this project has been tardy and on many roads situation became worse than it was before. Our government will ensure that roads under this project are completed in a time bound manner while ensuring the quality. We will also seek further assistance from multilateral funding agencies to upgrade and improve the remaining state highways and major district roads. Further, to shorten distances, we will take up the matter for construction of tunnels with multi lateral funding agencies, between Chamunda to Holi, Karsehar to Telang (Bhubhu Jot) Tissa to Killar (Chaini pass in Pangi Valley) and Jalori Jot (District Kullu).

81. The World Bank funded PMGSY Rural Road Project was launched by Government of India during 2010-11 under which there is a provision of ₹1182 crore for Himachal Pradesh. So far, 177 road works with cost of ₹230 crore have been sanctioned. Under PMGSY Government of India can release more funds to the State. However, the main problem being faced is that the people are not coming forward to donate their land, as per the norms of PMGSY. I will urge the members of this august House to use their good offices to motivate people to donate land for roads so that Himachal can build roads to all unconnected villages by using 100% grant funds from Government of India.

82. I have also observed that many road projects remain pending for want of forest clearance. I have directed

the forest department to obtain FCA clearances expeditiously and send regular reports to my office.

83. In 2013-14, we have fixed a target of construction of 475 kilometre motorable and 40 km. jeepable roads. Besides this cross drainage work on 620 km and metalling-tarring on 570 kms will be carried out. 35 bridges will be constructed during the year and 80 villages will be connected by road. I am proposing a total budget outlay of ₹2291 Crore for the Public Works Department in 2013-14.

84. Speaker Sir, it will be constant endeavour of our Government to make Himachal Pradesh a role model of sustainable development. We have received a Development Policy Loan (DPL) of ₹549 crore from the World Bank. The World Bank has given this amount as loan to Government of India. However, we are grateful to Government of India for releasing 90% of it i.e. ₹495 crore as grant to the State Government. We are also working with the World Bank to access another ₹500 crore from the Clean Technology Fund in 2013-14.

Environment,
Science and
Technology

85. We will promote the usage of GIS to facilitate informed decision making and greater transparency in the Government. During 2013-14 all the major departments will develop GIS applications to facilitate the use of spatial and geo spatial technologies for planning and monitoring of developmental programmes in the State.

86. Speaker Sir, The Department of Excise and Taxation is the major revenue earning department of the

Excise &
Taxation.

state. We will take various initiatives not only to enhance the revenue but also to facilitate the dealers as well as the consumers.

87. The State Government has successfully extended the facility of filing e-returns, e-declaration, e-tax payment and issue of C&F forms online to the registered dealers having turnover of ₹1 crore and above. Now, I am pleased to announce that these facilities will be extended to the dealers having annual turnover of ₹40 lakh and above. They will be able to get these services from their offices or shops without visiting the office of the Excise Department. I am also happy to announce that from 1st April, 2013, the dealers will not be required to file hard copies of the monthly/quarterly returns filed online except the copies of Annual return. This change will save a lot of time and energy for these dealers. These dealers will be intimated about these services through SMS as well as e-mail.

88. We will also start e-services for issue of passes and permits to the Excise licensees in the State to facilitate these licensees to get passes at their own premises, without visiting the offices of the Excise Department.

89. I also announce that the registration fee under the H.P. VAT Act, CST Act, Passenger & Good Tax Act and Luxury Tax Act will be abolished for the new dealers to facilitate their early registration. I also announce that any change in the rate of tax in future will be made applicable from the 1st day of the month in place of mid of the month, so as to facilitate the dealers to calculate the rate and tax period correctly.

90. The present classification of goods under the VAT Act does not have any codes and the absence of proper commodity indexing creates disputes of tax rates. In order to avoid litigation and for the sake of simplification, the commodities under various schedules appended to the Himachal Pradesh VAT Act, 2005 will be assigned the commodity codes on the lines of Central Excise Tariff of India where classification disputes are almost nil. This simplification will help all the dealers and manufacturers in Himachal Pradesh.

91. At present, a large number of cases are pending for assessment under the H.P. VAT Act, 2005 and the CST Act, 1956. In order to ensure timely disposal of these cases, I propose that random selection of cases will be made for assessment in a year. Rest of the cases, where complete returns have been filed and tax deposited, will be considered to be deemed assessed for the benefit of the dealers.

92. I had constituted the **HP Traders Welfare Board** in my previous tenure. In the last five years, no meeting of the Traders Welfare Board took place. I announce that this Board would be revived to sort out the difficulties being faced by the traders.

93. At present there are two tax rates on footwear. Some footwear is charged 5% VAT and others are charged at 13.75%. The footwear dealers have requested to have one tax rate on all categories of footwear for simplification and growth of tax. I accept their request and announce that the Government will take steps to charge 9% tax on all types of footwear, in future.

Tourism.

94. Speaker Sir, our Government will aim at promoting sustainable tourism in the State. I am pleased to announce that the VAT on aviation turbine fuel will be reduced from 5% to 1% to encourage aircrafts to fly to Shimla, Bhuntar and Kangra.

95. The State has great potential for water sports and recreational activities due to the reservoirs created by hydel projects. We shall add variety to the tourist experience in the state by setting up House Boats on the lines of Kashmir and Kerala in the reservoirs. An Adventure Marathon shall be introduced in the state which would include car rally, cycling, river rafting and cross country with families participating as teams.

96. To involve local youth in tourism activities and generate employment, we will provide training to 1000 youth as tourist guides and 3900 youth in driving skills, while owners of Home stays shall be given training on hospitality.

97. Our Government will encourage opening of new hotels and tourist facilities in the backward Panchayats of the state having a vast potential of tourism. I hereby announce that all the new hotels in the backward panchayats will be exempted from payment of luxury tax under the HP Tax on Luxuries (in hotels and lodging houses) Act, 1979 for a period of 10 years from the date they start functioning.

Elementary
Education.

98. Education has always remained one of our top priorities. Consequently, our state has achieved

remarkable progress in literacy and literacy percentage has reached 83.78% as per 2011 census. I have already announced free travel facility to government school students for going to and coming from schools in HRTC buses w.e.f. 1st April, 2013. We have also ordered opening/ up gradation of 149 schools which were de-notified or closed by the previous Government. Speaker Sir, we have opened a large numbers of schools across the state. The enrolment levels in our state are one of the highest in the country. However, the learning levels of the students are a matter of concern. Our Government will give emphasis on improving the quality of education by having the right curriculum, trained teachers and provision of their regular in service training and making them accountable for learning levels of students. The teaching will be made child centric and activity based. The School Management Committees will be empowered to check the attendance of the teachers. To evaluate the learning levels of the students, I announce that a State Amendment in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Elementary Education Act, will be introduced in this august House to request Government of India to allow conduct of exams for 5th and 8th class.

99. The teachers appointed by Parent Teacher Association are playing an important role in the schools located in interior areas. The previous Government harassed them and retrenched many of them by sending a regular teacher for a short time. We have already ordered to reinstate all qualified PTA teachers who were removed by the previous Government. We will develop a policy for the PTA teachers. The post held by a PTA teacher will be

considered as filled and no substitute teacher will be sent. I also announce that the PTA grant being given by the Government to Lecturer School Cadre shall be increased from ₹7250 to ₹10875, for the TGT from ₹6950 to ₹10425, and for the PET and C&V teachers from ₹6750 to ₹10125. This will give additional benefit of ₹20 crore to these teachers.

Secondary
and Higher
Education.

100. Speaker Sir, we will continue our quality drive in secondary and higher education also. As a first step towards this, we will focus on the improvement of infrastructure. I am proposing a budget provision of ₹63 crore for capital works for secondary and higher education during 2013-14. To bring the standard of education in colleges and Himachal Pradesh University at par with National standards, the curriculum and syllabus will be extensively revised and upgraded. The course content will be prepared keeping in view the requirement of the job market and the employability of the students. The total number of teaching days will be increased to 180.

101. Imparting education using modern ICT tools makes the learning more interesting, easy and interactive. Accordingly, I propose to start smart classrooms in 618 Government Senior Secondary Schools and 837 Government High Schools during 2013-14. The contents of curriculum will be made available on computers and will be displayed on screen through projector in the class rooms.

102. I propose to start vocational education in 100 new senior secondary schools with four courses i.e. Automobile,

Retail, Security & I.T. with the aim to improve the employability of students from 9th to 12th class under National Vocational Education Qualification Framework scheme during 2013-14.

103. I am further pleased to announce that 5 thousand meritorious students of 10th and 12th class of Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education will be provided Net books/tablets under **Rajiv Gandhi Digital Student Yojna**, to strengthen teaching-learning activities.

104. For encouraging the meritorious students in the state, I announce that any student of Himachal Pradesh who gets admission in IITs, IIMs or AIIMS will be given a cash incentive of ₹75 thousand. I propose a budget provision of ₹3836 crore for education department which is 17.6 % of the total budget.

105. Speaker Sir, to upgrade the skills of the youth for enhancing their employability in the industry and for self employment, there is a need to expand technical education in the state. At present polytechnics are running in 7 districts in government sector. We propose to operationalise 5 new Polytechnics in the remaining districts of Bilaspur, Kullu, Sirmour, Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti in 2013-14. I also announce that new ITIs will be opened in all the Vidhan Sabha constituencies without a government ITI.

Technical
Education.

106. The State Government has identified land for setting up a Hydro Engineering college at Bandla in District Bilaspur in collaboration with NTPC and NHPC. IIIT in PPP

mode in District Una will be established for which approval of Government of India has recently been received. I am also pleased to announce that a new Engineering college will be set up in District Kangra under Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan of Government of India.

107. In order to encourage more technical institutions to come up in the private sector, the State Government will give Government land on lease at concessional rates to the entrepreneurs. I propose an outlay of ₹110 crore for the year 2013-14 for technical education.

Language,
Art and
Culture.

108. The State Government is committed to preserve and promote Art and Culture of the State. We will start a special programme to train the youth in the folk, arts, craft and traditions. In the first phase, Schools of Pahari Miniature Painting, Chamba Rumal, Metal Craft and Wood Craft will be started under *Guru Shishya Parmpra*. This will go a long way in generating self employment to youth besides preserving and propagating our art and culture.

109. Speaker Sir, various temples of the state were included in Schedule-1 of HP Hindu Public Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1984 for the better preservation and upkeep of our cultural heritage but the previous Government vide its notification dated 11-04-2012 indiscriminately de-notified 13 temples from schedule-1. Our Government has decided to re-include these temples in schedule-1 of the said Act.

110. I also announce that the grant-in-aid of the temples presently getting grant from the government will be doubled

from the year 2013-14. We will also provide adequate funds for renovation of old temples of hill crafts.

111. Speaker Sir, our Government will continue to lay emphasis on development of sports infrastructure to promote sports talent of the youth in the state. Besides construction of new stadiums, the State Government will lay emphasis on the upgradation of existing stadiums. To motivate the sportspersons of the state, I announce that cash prize being given to the outstanding players of the state will be doubled from 2013-14. The award money of Parshuram awardees will be enhanced from existing ₹50 thousand to ₹1 lakh. For the development of youth services and sports I propose a budget of ₹24 crore for 2013-14.

Youth
Service
and Sports.

112. Speaker Sir, the State Government is committed to provide the best of Health care facilities to the people of the State. We have a vast health infrastructure which is far better than national average. Our health indices are one of the best in the country. The IMR has come down to 38, Child Sex Ratio has improved to 914; Institutional Deliveries have gone up to 76%; fertility rate has dropped to 1.9 and birth rate to 16.9%.

Health and
Ayurveda.

113. Himachal is emerging as a hub for the manufacture of many essential drugs. In order to make issue of all statutory licenses and certificates transparent, we will start the system of web based licensing for drug manufacturers as well as retailers so that they can get the licenses at their own premises.

114. The National Ambulance Services will be expanded by adding 59 additional Ambulances to the

existing fleet. Further, we will provide a dedicated fleet of ambulances for free drop back of women who deliver in Government institutions. To facilitate the patients suffering from cancer and spinal injuries and those on dialysis, I announce that they would be provided free travel facility in HRTC buses along with one attendant. Further, a new multi-storey building complex having parking, diagnostic facilities, OPDs, doctors' rooms, etc. will be constructed in IGMC.

115. The Post Graduate Contractual Medical Officers are given monthly incentive to encourage them to opt for hospitals located in the interior areas. I propose to raise the monthly incentive, in addition to their contractual emoluments, from ₹15000 to ₹25000 and from ₹25000 to ₹40000 to encourage the PG doctors to opt for such interior locations. I further announce that Higher Education Allowance for doctors acquiring PG Degree will be raised from ₹5000 to ₹7000 PM and for those acquiring PG diploma from ₹2000 to ₹3500 PM.

116. Addressing the health needs of the large young population of the state will go a long way in promoting better health for all in the State. We will provide free treatment to all school going children diagnosed with critical or congenital illness under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram.

117. To improve the health of the adolescent population in the reproductive age group, we have recently launched a new scheme under the name of Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme. The Menstrual Hygiene Programme would be expanded across the State.

118. Drug addiction is a grave problem being faced in the country which threatens not only the present but the future of the society. In order to provide professional help to those afflicted by this habit we will set up drug de-addiction centres in every district. We will launch mass awareness campaign in the educational institutions to make the youth aware of the ill effects of drugs. Further, to discourage the people from smoking, I propose to increase the VAT on cigarette, cigar etc. from 18% to 36% and on bidis from 11% to 22%.

119. To ensure availability of health care to all, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana will be expanded to cover additional beneficiaries. It is proposed to spend ₹10 crore on this scheme from the state budget.

120. Ayurveda Department is playing a significant role in providing health services in the remotest areas of the State. The Department will educate farmers for propagation, cultivation and scientific extraction of herbs throughout the State. I propose a total outlay of ₹1187 crore for Health sector in 2013-14.

121. Speaker Sir, the towns in Himachal Pradesh are growing at a fast pace and so is growing the need of citizen services in the urban areas. To improve urban governance and infrastructure, service delivery mechanism, basic services to the urban poor, an ambitious mission known as JNNURM has been launched by Government of India. An outlay of ₹70 crore has been proposed under JNNURM for 2013-14.

Urban
Development.

122. We have received the Interim report of the 4th State Finance Commission and have accepted its recommendations. Total fund devolution of ₹105 Crore is proposed to be made to urban local bodies for the year 2013-14.

123. To enhance the service delivery capacity of all the Urban Local Bodies, \$100 million loan is under consideration for funding from Asian Development Bank. We will pursue for sanction of this loan.

Women and
Child
Development.

124. Speaker Sir, we are committed towards the socio-economic development and welfare of the weaker sections of the society. The recent brutal incident in Delhi has shaken the whole country. In Himachal Pradesh any woman in distress can now make phone call on 108 and suitable assistance will be provided to her immediately. In order to make the women feel more secure, we will install CCTV cameras at public places in Shimla city and other important tourist destinations.

125. The Government has recently set up a State Level Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary and District level committees under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioners to regularly review all cases of atrocities against women and ensure expeditious action taken by the police and other authorities. To make police more women friendly it is important that we have sufficient women in police force. At present women constitute nearly 10% of police force. I therefore, announce that now onwards at least 20% women will be recruited at constable and Sub Inspector level.

126. The protection and care services being provided to the orphans/destitute children will be further strengthened by setting up **District Child Protection Units** in district Mandi, Kangra, Shimla and Chamba. I also propose to start two open shelters in District Shimla and Kangra to provide shelter to those children who need care and protection till they are properly rehabilitated.

127. Speaker Sir, a grant of ₹25,000 is given at present for the remarriage of widows. To encourage this social cause, I announce that the assistance given on remarriage of widows will be enhanced from ₹25000 to ₹50000.

128. Further I am happy to announce that a High Powered '**Mahila Kalyan Board**' will be set up in the state for reviewing policies and issues related to socio-economic development, health, employment, security and empowerment of women.

129. Speaker Sir, our Government is deeply committed towards the welfare of underprivileged and weaker sections of the society. Under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan, I am proposing an allocation of ₹1014 crore for 2013-14.

SC/OBC
and
Minority
Affairs.

130. There are 2,82,552 social security pensioners in the state including old age, widow and disabled. I have already declared to enhance the rate of pension from ₹450 to ₹500 PM with effect from 01-04-2013. Now, I further announce that pensioners above 80 years of age will be given pension @ ₹1000 PM. At present 10900 applications are pending for grant of pension. I announce

that all these applicants will be sanctioned pension w.e.f. 1-4-2013. The pensioners will get a total benefit of nearly ₹200 crore during 2013-14.

131. Inter caste marriages are an effective measure towards eradication of caste barriers and as such there is a need to promote them for the sake of social equity. I therefore, propose to enhance the grant for **inter caste marriages** from the existing ₹25000 to ₹50000.

132. Similarly, Under '**Mukhya Mantri Kanya Daan Yojna**', an assistance of ₹21000 is provided for the marriage of the daughter. I announce to raise it to ₹25000 w.e.f. 1st April, 2013.

133. Speaker Sir, the housing subsidy for the construction of new houses for SCs, STs, and OBCs is being provided at rate of ₹48500. I announce to enhance this amount to ₹75000 from next year.

Tribal
Development.

134. Equitable and balanced development of tribal area and welfare of tribal people continues to be our top priority. With a view to achieving this objective an outlay of ₹369 crore is being allocated under Tribal Sub-Plan during the financial year 2013-14 which is nearly 11% higher than the outlay of the previous year. I propose a total budget allocation of ₹764 crore for tribal areas in 2013-14 including the non plan allocations.

Welfare of
ex-
serviceman
..

135. Speaker Sir, our government is committed to the welfare of ex-servicemen. I hereby announce to increase the amount of pension to Ex-servicemen and their widows

above 60 years from ₹400 to ₹500 per month from April, 2013. As tribute to the parents of all the soldiers who send their children for defending the nation, I propose to increase the amount of War Jagir from ₹2000 to ₹3000.

136. Speaker Sir, Police plays a very important role in the maintenance of law & order. The Police Department has also started a free SMS Number 9459100100 for making any complaint. This service has been widely appreciated by the people especially the women. Till date 5273 complaints have been received through SMS. In addition to above, online complaints on the Police Website are also being made by the women and action is being initiated within 48 hours.

Home/ Law
and Order.

137. Keeping in view the emergency services provided by the officers-in-charge of police stations, chowkis and fire stations round the clock, I announce a bi-monthly reimbursement of ₹350 for use of mobile phone under HP Government CUG scheme.

138. Considering the important role played by the non-gazetted ranks in Police, I announce that their annual grant of uniform allowance will be doubled from the existing rate w.e.f. 1st April, 2013.

139. Speaker Sir, HP Fire Services Department is playing crucial role in rendering services to the general public at the time of natural and man made fire disasters. 6 new fire posts have been made operational at Jogindernagar, Jwalamukhi, Nurpur, Sujanpur Tihra, Amb and Keylong. 3 fire posts will be made functional shortly

at Dalhousie, Kala Amb and Naina Devi. I propose a budget outlay of ₹ 723 crore for police and allied organizations in 2013-14.

Judicial
Administration.

140. To strengthen judicial administration for providing speedy justice to the people of the state, 10 courts of Additional District and Session Judge and 2 courts of Civil Judge (Junior Division) will be set up in the State.

Employment
Generation.

141. Unemployment, which is one of the gravest problems facing our country, is a world wide phenomenon. The Government is aware of the gravity of the problem and will make sustained efforts towards employment generation and labour welfare. We had made the policy for provision of 70% employment for Himachalis in all industrial/ hydro power units in the state during our earlier tenure. We will ensure that 70% employment to Himachalis is provided in Hydro Power and Industrial Sector. Strict action will be taken against the units not complying with this provision.

142. Speaker Sir, we have a large number of unemployed youth registered in our employment exchanges. Unemployment is a complex problem and cannot be overcome overnight. However, skill development can enhance the employability of the unemployed to a large extent. Speaker Sir, there is a famous saying,

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”.

Therefore, our Government intends to provide allowance to educated unemployed persons for their skill upgradation. I therefore, announce that 10+2 and above educated

unemployed youth between the age of 25 to 35 years who are registered in employment exchange for at least two years and not working anywhere will be given a “**Skill Development Allowance**” of ₹1000 per month for a period of two years. This rate will be ₹1500 per month for persons with disabilities. Most of the skill development can be completed in three months to two years. This allowance will be given to unemployed youth whose family income is less than ₹2 lakh per annum. The unemployed youth would be permitted to utilize this allowance for upgrading his skill in any sector where ever he proposes to get employment. Unemployed youth can get skill training from any institution or place of his choice. After completion of skill training, if an unemployed youth intends to take up self employment then he could apply for loan to a bank or to the SC,ST, OBC corporations. The state government will provide an interest subvention of 4% up to project cost of ₹1.50 lakh for next five years. However, if somebody completes skill training before two years, he will be eligible for 4% interest subvention at that stage itself. I propose a budget provision of ₹100 crore for the ‘Skill Development Allowance’. I would like to say to the unemployment youth of the state:-

कितनों की तकदीर बदलनी है तुम्हें, कितनों को रास्ते पर लाना है तुम्हें,
अपने हाथ की लकीरों को मत देख, इन लकीरों से आगे जाना है तुम्हें।

143. Skill development is key to generation of employment. I therefore, propose to establish a ‘**State Skill Development Council**’ in the state. The Council will seek to achieve convergence of different training programmes being run by various departments with the aim of providing best available placement opportunities to the upcoming

labour force and also collaborate with the private skill development agencies which can assure placement after completion of the training. I announce that skill upgradation would be provided to 5000 building and construction workers and their dependents. Further, people living in the tribal areas would be given required skill training from the funds available under BADP. The State Government in association with Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, would be setting up 12 Apparel and Textile Design Training Centres for skill development and employment creation in this sector. Further, for providing skill development in specialised plastic technologies, a unit of Central Institute of Plastic Technology will be opened soon in our state.

Employee welfare.

144. Speaker Sir, the employees are the backbone of any Government and their welfare has always been foremost in our priorities. A large number of posts at the functional grassroots level are presently lying vacant. I announce the filling up of 2000 posts of teachers of different categories, 500 posts of data entry operators/ computer operators, 500 posts of water guards, 500 posts of patwaris, 250 JEs/ surveyors, 200 forest guards and 100 posts of nurses. I also announce filling up of all vacant posts of doctors.

145. The employees posted in the tribal and hard areas of the state work in most difficult circumstances. Presently they are being paid winter allowance at the rate of ₹200 per month. I announce to increase it to ₹300 per month. This will benefit thousands of employees.

146. Many employees and pensioners have given the option of availing fixed medical allowance at the rate of ₹250 per month. I hereby announce to increase the same to ₹350 per month.

147. I announce that from the next financial year the pension of pensioners and family pensioners of pre-2006 period shall be further stepped up to 50% and 30% respectively of the minimum of the pay in the pay band and grade pay corresponding to the pre revised pay scale from which the pensioner had retired. This will provide benefit to thousands of pensioners with an additional benefit of around ₹30 crore per annum.

148. I announce that all contractual employees who complete 6 years of service and the daily wage employees who complete 7 years of service as on as on 31st March 2013 will also be regularized as per norms. Further, the part timers including part time water carrier in the education department who complete 9 years of continuous service as on 31st March 2013 will be made daily wagers as per norms.

149. In Himachal Pradesh about 93% workers are employed in the unorganized Sector. For the welfare of the workers engaged in building and construction activities, the "Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board" has been constituted. The procedure for registration of construction worker with this board will be simplified. I announce to increase medical reimbursement from ₹1000 to ₹5000 per annum and educational assistance for two children of construction workers from upto ₹10000 to upto

₹15000. Further in the event of death, the financial assistance shall be enhanced from ₹50000 to ₹1 lakh to legal heir of worker. I further announce that an assistance of ₹21000 will be given for marriage of upto 2 children of the building and construction workers.

Budget
Estimates.

150. Speaker sir, now I come to the macro budget estimates for 2013-14 and revised estimates for 2012-13. As per the revised estimates for 2012-13, we will be able to achieve the targets of the FRBM Act with regard to revenue surplus and fiscal deficit. As required by the FRBM Act I am separately presenting the Medium Term Fiscal Plan of the State Government for the period 2013-14 to 2016-17. The full details of the next year's budget are available in the comprehensive budget documents being tabled in this august House.

151. The total budget expenditure estimated for 2013-14 is ₹21767 crore out of which estimated expenditure on salaries is ₹6956 crore, on pensions it would be ₹2839 crore, estimated interest payments would be ₹2431 crore, and loan repayments are expected to be ₹1714 crore apart from ₹342 crore on other loans and ₹1721 crore on maintenance.

152. As per budget estimates for 2013-14, the total revenue receipts are estimated at ₹17700 crore and the total revenue expenditure is estimated to be ₹17646 crore leaving a revenue surplus of ₹54 crore. The expected receipts in capital account of the Government are ₹3540 crore apart from ₹650 crore in Public Account including Provident Fund etc. Capital expenditure including loan

repayments is estimated to be ₹4120 crore. The fiscal deficit for 2013-14 is expected to be ₹2324 crore which is 2.85% of the GSDP.

153. Thus, as per the budget estimates, against an expenditure of every 100 rupees, the State will have ₹81.31 as total revenue receipts including transfers from the Centre. The gap of ₹18.69 will have to be met by borrowings. Out of every 100 rupees of State revenue receipts, ₹30.35 will accrue from own tax revenues, ₹13.52 from non-tax revenues, ₹15.35 from share in Central taxes and ₹40.78 from Central grants. Out of every 100 rupees spent, salaries will account for ₹31.95, pensions for ₹13.05, interest payments for ₹11.17, loan repayments for ₹7.87 and the remaining ₹35.96 will be spent on developmental works including other activities.

154. Speaker Sir, the full details of next year's budget are available in the comprehensive budgetary documents being tabled in this august House. I would now like to summarise the main highlights of this Budget:- Highlights.

- **Every department in State Government will scrutinize it's Acts, Rules and Guidelines and suggest amendments to simplify the procedures and to make them citizen centric.**
- **A State Commissioner (Public Grievances) to be appointed to monitor timely disposal of public grievances.**
- **An "Administrative Boundaries Re-organization Commission" will be set up for re-organization of boundaries of administrative units of various departments.**

- **A State Innovation Fund to be set up with an initial outlay of ₹5 crore to encourage departments to try new initiatives.**
- **Direct Benefit Transfer under all state scholarship and welfare schemes.**
- **An outlay of ₹175 crore proposed for the state food subsidy scheme.**
- **Annual plan outlay of ₹4100 crore proposed for 2013-14.**
- **Each MLA to be given a budget of ₹2 lakh as discretionary grant fund.**
- **“Integrated Crop Diversification Programme” to be started to bring additional 3000 hectare area under vegetable cultivation.**
- **“Mukhyamantri Adarsh Krishi Gaon Yojna” under which 68 selected panchayats will be given a grant of ₹10 lakh each for agricultural infrastructure.**
- **Production of mushroom will be treated as an agriculture activity.**
- **Organic Certification Agency to be established to provide the facility of organic certification to the farmers in the state.**
- **Seeds of high yielding variety of maize, paddy and fodder to be provided at 50% subsidy to the farmers for the coming kharif season.**
- **Token tax exempted for tractors for agriculture purpose.**
- **One Panchayat in each district which is completely free of stray animals to be given an award of ₹5 lakh.**

- **Financial assistance to the NGOs/Trusts for setting up and running of Gaushalas for provision of cowsheds, fodder etc.**
- **Procurement price of apple, mango kinnow, malta and galgal to be increased by 50 paisa per KG.**
- **Anti hail nets to horticulturists on 80% subsidy.**
- **Procurement price of milk increased from the existing ₹17.80 to ₹18.80 per litre w.e.f. 1st April, 2013.**
- **₹1 crore 90 lakh to be provided for renovation of inland fish landing centres near reservoirs.**
- **Six new monkey sterilization centres to be started.**
- **New ICDP project for Shimla, Kangra and Kullu districts.**
- **Housing Grant under Rajiv Awas Yojna and state housing schemes to be increased from ₹ 48500 to ₹75000.**
- **Bi-monthly reimbursement of ₹350 to be given to BDOs, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars and officers in charge of police stations, chowkis and fire stations for use of mobile phone.**
- **Water supply at 70 LPCD to additional 2500 habitations, 2000 hand pumps to be installed during the next financial year.**
- **High Powered Committee for speedy clearances of Hydroprojects.**
- **₹270 crore to subsidise domestic consumers of electricity.**

- ₹ 75 crore equity contribution to HPSEBL.
- Provision of ₹230 crore for payment of energy charges for lift irrigation and lift water supply schemes.
- Three new state of the art industrial areas to be developed in district Una, Solan and Kangra.
- Clearances for industrial projects to be made time bound and brought under Public Services Guarantee Act.
- Concessional CST of 1.5% on the existing industrial units and 1% on new industrial units.
- ₹10 crore to be provided for construction and upgradation of the Bus Stands at subdivisions and blocks.
- Grant and equity of ₹160 crore to HRTC in 2013-14.
- Facility of filing e>Returns, e-declaration, e-tax payment and issue of C&F forms to be extended to registered dealers having annual turnover of ₹40 lakh and above.
- Registration fee under the H.P. VAT Act, Central Sales Tax Act, Passenger & Goods Tax Act and Luxury Tax Act to be abolished for the new dealers.
- HP Traders Welfare Board to be revived.
- 9% VAT on all types of footwear.
- VAT on aviation turbine fuel to be reduced from 5% to 1%.
- New hotels in the backward panchayats to be exempted from payment of luxury tax for

a period of 10 years.

- Free travel facility to government school students for going to and coming from schools in HRTC buses w.e.f. 1st April, 2013.
- Patients suffering from cancer and spinal injuries and those on dialysis to be provided free travel facility in HRTC buses along with one attendant.
- Re-opening of schools denotified and closed by the previous government.
- PTA grants to Lecturer School Cadre to be increased from ₹7250 to ₹10875, for the TGT from ₹6950 to ₹10425, and for C&V teachers from ₹6750 to ₹10125.
- Smart classrooms to be started in 618 Government Senior Secondary Schools and 837 Govt. High Schools.
- Vocational education in 100 new senior secondary schools.
- 5 thousand meritorious students of 10th and 12th class to be provided Net books/tablets under Rajiv Gandhi Digital Student Yojna.
- Student of Himachal Pradesh who gets admission in IITs, IIMs or AIIMS to be given a cash incentive of ₹75 thousand.
- New ITIs will be opened in all the Vidhan Sabha constituencies without a government ITI.
- New engineering college under RUSA in district Kangra.
- Cash prize given to the outstanding players of the state to be doubled. Award money of

- Parshuram awardees to be enhanced from existing ₹50000 to ₹1 lakh.
- Monthly incentive to be increased from ₹15000 to ₹25000 and from ₹25000 to ₹40000 to encourage PG doctors to opt for interior locations.
 - Higher Education Allowance for doctors acquiring PG Degree to be raised from ₹5000 to ₹7000 PM and for those acquiring PG diploma from ₹2000 to ₹3500 PM.
 - VAT on cigarette, cigar etc. to be increased from 18% to 36% and on bidis from 11% to 22%.
 - At least 20% women to be recruited at constable and Sub Inspector level.
 - Assistance given for remarriage of widows and inter caste marriage to be enhanced from ₹25000 to ₹50,000.
 - 'Mahila Kalyan Board' will be set up in the state.
 - Allocation of ₹1014 crore under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and ₹369 crore under Tribal Sub-Plan.
 - Social Security pension to be increased from ₹450 to ₹500 pm. Pensioners above 80 years of age will be given pension @ ₹1000 PM. All pending applications to be cleared.
 - Assistance under 'Mukhya Mantri Kanya Daan Yojna', to be raised from ₹21000 to ₹25000 w.e.f. 1st April, 2013.
 - Ex-servicemen pension to be raised to ₹500 per month from April, 2013.

- Amount of War Jagir to be increased from ₹ 2000 to ₹3000.
- Grant of uniform allowance to non-gazetted ranks of police to be doubled.
- 10 courts of Additional District and Session Judge and 2 courts of Civil Judge(Junior Division) will be set up in the State.
- “Skill Development Allowance” of ₹1000 per month to be given to 10+2 and above educated unemployed youth. This rate will be ₹1500 per month for persons with disabilities. Interest subvention of 4% to be given up to project cost of ₹1.50 lakh.
- ‘State Skill Development Council’ to be established.
- 2000 posts of teachers of different categories, 500 posts of data entry operators/ computer operators, 500 posts of water guards, 500 posts of patwaris, 250 JEs/ surveyors, 200 forest guards, 200 posts of Panchayat sahayaks and 100 posts of nurses and all vacant posts of doctors to be filled up.
- Winter allowance for employees in tribal and hard areas increased from ₹200 to ₹300 per month.
- Fixed Medical allowance for employees and pensioners increased from ₹250 to ₹350 per month.
- Contractual employees completing 6 years of service, Daily wage employees completing

7 years of service as on 31st March 2013 to be regularized as per norms.

- **Part timers including part time water carriers in the education department who complete 9 years of continuous service as on 31st March 2013 will be made daily wagers as per norms.**
- **Financial assistance to the registered workers engaged in building and construction activities to be enhanced.**

Conclusion. 155. Speaker Sir, I have given an outline of the policy initiatives and strategy proposed to be adopted by us for ensuring faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth for the coming year.

156. Our Government will always remain alive to the problems and concerns of the people. We will adopt people centric policies so that the fruits of development trickle down to the poorest man.

157. This budget must be seen as a step towards fulfilling our pledge to serve the people of the state. I dedicate this budget to the people of our State and seek their cooperation to make Himachal Pradesh a model state.

158. With these words, Speaker Sir, I commend this budget to this august House.

Jai Hind.

Jai Himachal.