

**HON'BLE CHAIRMAN, HON'BLE SPEAKER AND
HON'BLE MEMBERS**

1. It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the first Session of the State Legislature for the year 2017.

2. Maharashtra is shaped by high ideals of great leaders and social reformers, like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj and many others.

3. My Government is leaving no stone unturned to accelerate economic growth, while achieving सबका साथ सबका विकास. I will now highlight some of these initiatives.

4. In order to mitigate agrarian distress and increase agricultural productivity, my Government has initiated a slew of farmer friendly measures in the form of sustainable development schemes, marketing support, crop insurance, water conservation, irrigation and agricultural diversification. All these measures would contribute to doubling of farmer's income in the next five years.

5. This Government has decided to introduce a project for climate resilient agriculture. The world bank assisted "Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project" of Rs. 4000 crore is being rolled out to ensure drought proofing of 4000 villages of Vidarbha and Marathwada region. This project also aims to mitigate the soil and ground water salinity problem in 1000 villages of 'Purna' river basin in Vidarbha region.

6. New revamped Crop Insurance Scheme called 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna' has been operationalized in the State from Kharif crop season of 2016. Around 1.08 crore farmers have enrolled for the scheme. In implementation of this scheme our state is leading the country.

7. In the implementation of Soil Health Card Scheme Maharashtra is leading the country. So far, nearly 80 lakh Soil Health Cards have been distributed to the farmers. Remaining farmers will be covered in the coming year. This will lead to balanced and effective use of fertilisers.

8. In order to disseminate information regarding agriculture technologies and to facilitate timely distribution of inputs, a State sponsored scheme of District Agriculture Festival has been started from the current year.

9. Accurate weather forecast is essential for farmers to maximise crop productivity. Hence, Government has decided to install Automatic Weather Stations in every revenue circle of the State. They will become operational from the Kharif season of 2017.

10. To mitigate the recurring drought-like situation in Marathwada and align with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister for "More Crop per drop", Government has decided to accelerate promotion of Micro Irrigation Scheme to cover, nearly 1.25 lakh hectares of land over the next 3 years.

11. My Government has decided to prioritise the completion of 26 incomplete irrigation projects that are included in "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana" in the next 3 years. This will create additional irrigation potential of 5.56 lakh hectares.

12. For promoting economical and sustainable water use and to increase public participation in water management, my Government has established a Water Literacy Center at YASHADA, Pune and three divisional centers at Aurangabad, Chandrapur and Amravati.

13. Realizing that only 56 per cent of the Culturable Command Area can be brought under irrigation with available water by conventional gravity flow irrigation method, my Government has decided to implement micro-irrigation method in the conventional distribution system. With this, it would be possible to reach the national average of 77per cent.

14. Under “Dhadak Sinchan Yojana” in 6 agrarian distressed districts of Vidarbha, Government has decided to complete all 6,000 wells that had remained incomplete for past several years. Further 11,000 new wells are being implemented in districts with high ground water like Gadchiroli, Gondia, Bhandara.

15. Under ‘River-Nala Rejuvenation Programme’, through convergence of various schemes, launched in December 2015, 1112 Cement Nala Bandhs have been approved, out of which 50 per cent works have already been completed.

16. The “Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan,” an innovative programme launched in December, 2014 has become a Peoples’ Movement. While the Government has provided substantial funds, I am happy to note that voluntary public contribution to the programme has exceeded Rs.500 crore. Under this Abhiyan, more than 2.5 lakh works have been completed and about 12 lakh Thousand Cubic Meters of water storage potential has been created. Similarly, ‘Farm Pond on Demand’ scheme has become very popular and so far, nearly 9,000 farm ponds have been constructed which would provide relief to drought affected farmers. Nearly, 11,000 villages have been made drought proof by conserving every drop of water in village watershed.

17. The capacity for berthing of fishing boats at Sassoon Dock, largest fishing harbour, is being enhanced to provide modern facilities to the fishermen and increase the tourist potential.

18. To regulate marine fishing and for protection of juvenile fish, my Government has impose drestrictions on purse seine net fishing in the territorial waters of the State. This has resulted in fish catch by traditional fishermen and Kolis of coastal districts of the state.

19. In 2016-17, about 3 lakh farmers were newly enrolled as members of Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies. Crop loan amounting to Rs.33,115 crore has been disbursed to more than 48 lakh farmers.

20. Crop loan of Rs.5124 crore of 6.85 lakh farmers was restructured that enabled 4.39 lakh farmers avail of fresh loan for Rs.3276 crore. Government also decided to bear the entire interest on restructured loan for the first year and to levy only 6 per cent interest for the remaining four years.

21. My Government has decided to refinance 9 District Central Co-operative Banks for restructured crop loan of Rs. 825 crore. Towards this, my Government has decided to pay Rs.123 crore and has also extended guarantee to NABARD for Rs.495 crore.

22. The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 1963 has been amended to enable e-trading and exempt the farmers from payment of Adat (commission). 60 APMCs have been identified to join the e-National market platform. The farmer will thus get better opportunities to realise remunerative prices as he will be able to sell at best prevailing price across country.

23. For getting better prices to the farmers and making available fresh fruits and vegetables to the consumers at reasonable rates, Sant Shiromani Shri Savata Mali Weekly Farmers market campaign has been initiated from August, 2016 for direct sale from farmers to consumers. Till date, 92 weekly markets are operating in the State.

24. To provide marketing support to farmers growing pulses and oilseeds, Marketing Federations have been authorized by the Government to implement minimum support price scheme. Tur farmers, in particular, have greatly benefitted from this initiative. Till date 18 lakhs quintal of Tur has been procured at M.S.P. of Rs. 5050/-.

25. Government has decided to include 92 lakh new beneficiaries which were hitherto uncovered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Farmers in 14 agrarian distressed districts of Marathwada and Vidarbha, are now getting benefits of NFSA. To insulate consumers

from the rising prices of pulses, Government decided to aggressively implement market intervention programmes. Tur Dal and Chana Dal were supplied at subsidised prices through fair price shop and open markets.

26. 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is a dream envisioned by our Hon'ble Prime Minister. Following his footsteps, my Government is on course to make Maharashtra 'Open Defecation Free' by March, 2018. Till date, Kolhapur, Pune and Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporations, 100 Municipal Councils, 4 districts, 73 talukas and 11,320 villages have been declared as 'Open Defecation Free'.

27. The State Government has decided to implement 'Mukhyamantri Rural Drinking Water Programme'. Under this programme, 1003 new water supply schemes, rejuvenation of 83 non-functional Regional Water Supply Schemes and maintenance and repairs of 531 Regional Water Supply Schemes are proposed within period of 4 years from 2016-17.

28. My Government has decided that dwellings occupied by rural artisans and agricultural labourers, including those of Katkari tribes, would be recognized by creation of record of rights of such dwellings and their house sites under relevant provisions of the Maharashtra Tenancy and Agricultural Land Act. Also, to facilitate restoration of land to original owner or his legal heirs in respect of lands forfeited for default in payment of arrears of land revenue, necessary amendment has been carried in the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966.

29. On 1st July, 2016, with the whole hearted participation of people, 2.82 crore seedlings were planted under "Van Mahotsav". I am happy to inform that the "Limca Book of Records" has taken note of this achievement. Pursuant to its success, a massive drive has been planned to plant 50 crore saplings over the next 3 years.

30. In order to make afforestation a mass movement, “Maharashtra Harit Sena” is being established by enlisting public support.

31. To preserve bio-diversity, 68 bio-diversity parks are being developed under “Uttamrao Patil Van UdhyanYojana.” A Botanical Garden is being established at Ballarpur, District Chandrapur on the lines of Bangalore Garden.

32. To promote transparency and to establish a regime of accessible information, my Government has started online R.T.I. system and soon, all the offices at all the districts places in Maharashtra will be online R.T.I. compliant.

33. For effective implementation of the Maharashtra Right to Public Services Act, the Rules 2016 have been notified and the Maharashtra State Commission for Right to Public Services has been constituted with headquarter at Mumbai, along with one office of Commissioner, at every Revenue Division. To date 52.22 lakh services have been provided under RTS.

34. Government has drawn an ambitious plan of establishing by December, 2018 a robust communication infrastructure by connecting all 29,000 Gram Panchayats through Optical Fibre under Bharat Net Programme. Nagpur district has already been declared as the first “Digital District” on 2nd October, 2016.

35. Inspired by public response to online portal ‘Aaple Sarkaar’, State Government has decided to improve its reach by establishing ‘Aaple Sarkar Seva Kendra’ in Gram panchayats. Delivery of government services at the doorsteps of rural citizens would be assured by this Portal. So far about 15,000 Kendras have been established.

36. Maharashtra is the first State in the country to have enacted Maharashtra Aadhar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 making Aadhar as the sole identifier of beneficiary for any subsidy or benefit or service. All the individual beneficiary schemes like scholarship to students,

subsidies to farmers for implements, would be delivered through pan-State Maha DBT and Services portal in phases starting with 32 schemes from 2017-18.

37. The project of Computerization of Public Distribution System is actively being implemented in the State. It has been decided to give barcoded ration cards to beneficiaries. Point of Sale machines will be provided to each Fair Price Shop in a phased manner, to enable distribution of food grains by establishing beneficiary's Biometric identity through Aadhar linkage.

38. My Government has initiated stern measures to control crime and maintain public order. I am happy to inform that Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System Project has been successfully implemented in all police stations of the State. Moreover, Government has completed the installation of an integrated video surveillance system for Mumbai and Pune. Government is now focusing on completion of CCTV projects in other major cities as well.

39. Pursuant to decisions taken last year, necessary measures have been put in place to improve the mechanism of investigation and prosecution resulting in significant increase in the conviction rate up to 58 percent.

40. Anti-naxal operations were carried out in Naxal affected Gadchiroli and Gondia Districts of the State, which resulted in effective check on naxal activities.

41. State of the Art network has been established to effectively counter the growing menace of cyber-crime. Under the first phase of the Project, 47 Cyber Labs have become functional.

42. For construction of new Court buildings and residential quarters, extension of existing Court buildings and repairs thereto, my Government has approved a "Court Infrastructure Policy".

43. Maharashtra is the first State in the country to adopt “Institutional Arbitration Policy”. This would lead to an efficient, swift and cost effective alternate dispute resolution through arbitration.

44. My Government has started the mission of repealing old and obsolete laws. In all 376 Acts have been repealed so far, which include 96 Obsolete and 280 Appropriation Acts.

45. To remove regional imbalance, special attention has been given to energise agriculture pumps of farmers in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. More than 1,80,000 pumps have been energised in the special drive in the past two years.

46. While the State has achieved power self-sufficiency, efforts are afoot to ensure 24 by 7 reliable power supply to all by reducing incidences of power outages and drop in voltage. Transmission and Distribution power infrastructure is being strengthened under “Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana” and “Integrated Power Development scheme” for which liberal funds have been provided.

47. Government has taken a decision to appoint a qualified person as Village Electrical Manager to speedily resolve the electricity related problems in the Village Panchayat area.

48. I am happy to note the encouraging response to UJALA Scheme. Within a year, more than 2 crore conventional electric bulbs have been replaced by energy efficient LED bulbs, saving more than 500 Mega Watt of peak power demand. My Government is striving hard to promote energy conservation by similarly converting conventional public street lights in cities, towns and villages.

49. The State power generation utility MAHAGENCO has taken many pioneering steps for sustainable power generation. They include sewage water reuse and recycling project commissioned at Bhandewadi, Nagpur and setting up a subsidiary, MAHAGEMS to implement the Fly Ash Policy of the Government.

50. A new Maharashtra Electricity Duty Act has been made operational from 1st September 2016 by amending the old Act to plug legal loopholes and to provide level playing field to all entities.

51. My Government has sanctioned improvement of around 10,500 kms of State Highways costing approximately Rs. 30,000 crore under the ' Hybrid Annuity Model '. These works will be completed in the coming two years.

52. My Government has also decided to build " Samruddhi Corridor " - a Super Communication Expressway-between Nagpur and Mumbai,at an estimated cost of Rs.46,000 crore.

53. To remove the congestion on Pune-Mumbai Expressway, Capacity Augmentation has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 3215 crore. About 3600 kms of State Highways are planned to be upgraded to National Highways by May 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs. 24,000 crore.

54. MSRDC has been entrusted with the work of constructing 9.89 kms of Versova-Bandra Sea Link project, as an extension of BandraWorli Sea Link Project. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 7,502 crore.

55. The Government is implementing ambitious Chief Minister Rural Roads Programme by upgrading 30,000 Km. of village roads and work on 5,000 have already commenced.

56. Under Maharashtra Transformation Mission, 1,000 villages with lowest Human Development Index have been taken for development by converging Government schemes and Corporate Social Responsibility contributions. In these villages, literacy outcome will be enhanced. Poverty rates will be reduced, agriculture productivity and farmers' income shall be doubled. In each of these village a trained Rural Development fellow shall be placed to mobilise Gramsabha and achieve the objective of village transformation.

57. My Government has entered into a Joint Venture Agreement with Ministry of Railways to set up “Maharashtra Railway Infrastructure Development Company” to expedite implementation of railway projects. In addition, the Government has decided to undertake equity participation for improving Port-Rail Connectivity for Jaigad and Dighi Ports.

58. My Government has decided to start passenger ferry services between New Ferry Wharf in Mumbai to Mandwa Port in Raigad and to Nerul in Navi Mumbai. The Ro-Ro Ferry service between Ferry Wharf and Mandwa will enable passengers to travel alongwith their vehicles. In order to promote water transport, eight passenger jetty/Ro-Ro jetty projects have been sanctioned under Sagarmala Programme of the Central Government.

59. Under revised pay and parking policy in Mumbai Municipal Corporation area, it is proposed to construct parking places with the help of Public-Private Partnership in coming 3 years.

60. For improving connectivity with major places, 10 Airports are being developed in the State in the first phase at Shirdi, Amravati, Gondia, Nashik, Jalgaon, Nanded, Solapur, Kolhapur, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg in Regional Connectivity Scheme launched under the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016.

61. My Government remains committed to development of infrastructure in urban areas. All preparatory development works for the Greenfield Airport at Navi Mumbai are being completed. Interest of project affected persons is being protected by providing liberal compensation package.

62. Draft Development Plan of NAINA, Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area, a self-sustainable proposed city, has been published and is based on a unique participatory model, wherein 40% land would be with NAINA Authority while 60% area will be developed by land holders.

63. To further improve connectivity in Navi Mumbai, Nerul-Uran Railway Corridor is under construction, first phase of which, till Kharkopar, is expected to be operational by July 2018.

64. To improve Public Transport System in the urban areas of the State, the works of Mumbai Metro Line-3, Mumbai Metro Line-2A, Mumbai Metro Line-7 and Nagpur Metro have commenced. The Belapur-Pendhar Metro Rail Project in Navi Mumbai is expected to be completed by 2018. In addition, work on Mumbai Metro Line-2B, Mumbai Metro Line-4, and Pune Metro would commence shortly.

65. Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban transformation (AMRUT), basic services like water supply, sewerage and transport are being developed in 44 cities benefitting 76 per cent of urban population of the State, at an estimated cost of Rs. 4480 crore.

66. Maharashtra has the distinction of having maximum number of cities selected in the country under Smart City Mission. More than 1200 crore rupees have been released so far to Pune, Solapur Kalyan-Dombivali, Nagpur, Nashik, Thane and Aurangabad.

67. On the ease of doing business, several reforms have been implemented to make the administrative process industry friendly. Some of the reforms include reduction in number of approvals from 74 to 47, specialized benches under Bombay High Court / District Courts to hear commercial cases, a consolidated common application form to approach various public utilities etc.

68. Maharashtra Land Revenue Code has been amended to allow deemed non-agricultural permission as per the land use shown in the Final Development Plan. Moreover, the Tenancy Laws in the State have been amended, so that prior permission of the Government is not required for purchasing more than 10 hectares of agricultural land for bona fide industrial use or for purchasing agricultural land allocated to residential, commercial, industrial or any other non-agricultural use in the Draft or Final Regional Plan or Town Planning Scheme.

69. “Maharashtra Industry, Trade and Investment Facilitation Cell (MAITRI)”, which acts as a single window for 44 industrial clearances required across 18 departments has facilitated unlocking investment of more than Rs.85,000 crore and employment potential of 1.55 lakh so far.

70. It is a matter of great pride that Maharashtra continues to attract highest FDI in the country. Our share in the total FDI inflow in India in the past six months has risen to 50 per cent.

71. My Government has responded proactively to ameliorate the financial condition of textile industry in the State so as to make them more competitive. Interest subvention is being extended to the industry for the working capital loan taken by them from financial institutions.

72. To promote sericulture, my Government has decided to establish cocoon market at Jalna.

73. My Government has introduced several labour reforms. Under Right to Public Services Act, 2015, 20 services with respect to 7 labour laws are being delivered online to citizens.

74. ‘Pramod Mahajan Kaushalya va UdyojaktaVikas Abhiyan’ launched to achieve the goal of ‘Skilled Maharashtra, Employable Maharashtra’ provides skill development training to the youth of the State within the working age group of 15-45 years, thereby creating opportunities for their employment and entrepreneurship.

75. For imparting required skills to youth, 34 Memorandum of Understandings have been signed with major Industry groups out of which 28 have been implemented. As a result, 7 lakh youth will get skilled and would be employed in next 3 years.

76. My Government is continuing with its endeavour to improve air and water quality in the State. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board in collaboration with IIT, Powai is preparing Air Quality Report and Action Plan to improve air quality in 10 major cities - Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, Amravati, Aurangabad, Chandrapur, Kolhapur, Navi-Mumbai and Solapur. By the end of this year, the number of Automatic Air Quality Monitoring Centers will increase to 20.

77. A comprehensive study report of polluted stretches of ten rivers has been prepared. In addition, monitoring of water quality of rivers and lakes in the State is being continuously undertaken at 294 locations. From July 2016, data of Water quality index is put in public domain.

78. My Government has initiated several steps for providing affordable housing. MHADA has been allotted Government lands in Thane, Raigad and Palghar Districts. For this purpose, necessary modifications in Development Control Regulations in the Regional Plan and in the respective Development Plans have been carried out. In addition to 1221 apartments in Valleyshilp Housing Scheme and 3140 apartments in Swapnapurti Housing Scheme that were built recently, CIDCO is planning to build 13,805 more houses for Lower Income Groups in coming years.

79. My Government has enabled MHADA for redevelopment of B.D.D. chawls through modifications in the Development Control Regulations of Greater Mumbai. Accordingly, work for redevelopment of Naigaon and N. M. Joshi Marg, BDD chawls has been taken up by MHADA.

80. Under 'Prime Minister Awas Yojana, 46 projects in urban areas for construction of more than 1 lakh dwelling units have been approved by Central Government. In addition to providing land at subsidised rates and concessions in stamp duty, the State Government is providing additional grant of Rs. 1 lakh per dwelling unit under this scheme.

81. For the rural areas, major procedural modifications have been made to 'Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana' to improve its reach. Now the financial assistance is being disbursed directly to the beneficiaries. Under Ramai, Shabari, Pardhi and Adim housing schemes of State Government, about 80,000 houses are being constructed for SC, ST and Primitive Tribes beneficiaries. A total of about 3 lakh houses in rural areas are being constructed this year.

82. My Government has launched a new scheme, "Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Gharkul Jaaga Kharedi Arthasahayya Yojana" wherein assistance of Rs. 50,000/- for purchase of land up to 500 Sq.ft is being provided.

83. My Government has started "Pragat Shaikshanik Programme" to improve quality of education and arrest drop out rate. Due to continuous efforts during the last 2 years, the number of drop outs has come down to 1,54,000 in the year 2015-16 from 2,59,000 in 2013-14. Under this programme, about 32,000 schools have become "Pragat", 27,000 schools have become Digital and 2600 schools have become ISO:9000 certified.

84. To reinforce the pre-eminence of Maharashtra in higher education, my Government has taken several steps to promote institutes of higher learning.

85. Maharashtra National Law Universities at Mumbai and Nagpur have become functional. The Maharashtra National Law University at Aurangabad will also commence from Academic Year 2017-18.

86. I am happy to announce that Indian Institute of Information Technology at Pune and Nagpur have commenced their academic sessions from 2016-17.

87. With the enactment of Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016, my Government has taken a giant stride in promoting autonomy of and excellence in higher education institutions.

88. My Government has decided to upgrade the polytechnics at Latur, Solapur, Yavatmal, Ratnagiri, Dhule and Jalna into engineering colleges. They are expected to start functioning from the academic year 2017-18.

89. To achieve the object of “Health for All”, my Government has decided to launch a new “Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan ArogyaYojana”from 2017-18. Under this scheme, economically weaker sections of the society will be covered and health insurance will be provided for surgeries/ therapies that are mostly required. In addition, Balasaheb Thackeray Road Accident Insurance Scheme is proposed to be implemented in financial year 2017-18 to provide cashless emergency care up to Rs.30,000 in golden hour for reducing mortality and morbidity in road accidents.

90. To strengthen the Health Services in rural and tribal areas of the State, 1332 new posts have been created in 111 health institutes, majority of which are located in Nandurbar, Dhule, Thane, Nashik, Gadchiroli, Gondia, Chandrapur that have substantial tribal population. Approximately, 65 lakh people will benefit from these institutes. To ensure 24 X 7 medical services to people of remote villages power to recruit MBBS Medical Officers have been given to the Collectors and 552 doctors have been recruited.

91. To provide quality Generic Medicines at reasonable rates to common people, ‘Jan Aushadhi Stores’ are being set-up at 10 ESIS hospitals in the State. They will complement the existing AMRIT pharmacies.

92. Government has decided to form State Level ESI Corporation for unity of command in governance of ESI hospitals.

93. Under the third phase of “ Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna ”, Central Government has approved a plan amounting to Rs. 600 crore for the Super Specialty services in the Government Medical Colleges at Akola, Yawatmal, Latur and Aurangabad.

94. For strengthening of Drugs Control System under the Food and Drugs Administration, equipment with modern technology and suitable technical manpower will be provided to the laboratories.

95. Instead of procuring and supplying goods under various welfare schemes, my Government has decided to directly transfer cash amounts in the Aadhar linked bank accounts of beneficiaries. This will enhance transparency and enable wider choice to the beneficiaries in selection of quality goods.

96. My Government has decided to increase the income limit of parents from Rs.4.5 lakh per annum to Rs.6 lakh per annum for reimbursement of education fee for professional courses to the students of OBC, VJNT and SBC categories who are admitted in government and government approved unaided institutes as well government approved private and permanently un-aided institutes.

97. My Government is providing scholarship/ free-ship under “Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Rajya Shikshan Shulk Pratipurti Yojna,” to students from the Economically Backward Classes, with family income upto Rs. 6 lakh per annum.

98. My Government has decided to create a new department for effective implementation of welfare schemes for the De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Classes.

99. “Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Swaadhar Yojana” has been introduced for Scheduled Castes and Nav Boudha students enrolled in 11th and 12th standard and vocational and non-vocational undergraduate and post graduate courses. An amount ranging from Rs. 43,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- will be deposited in AADHAR linked Bank accounts of 25,000 eligible students for their hostel and educational expenses.

100. To address the problem of malnutrition among tribal children, the Government has broadened the scope of “ Bharat Ratna Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Amrut Aahar Yojana ” under which in addition to providing one square meal to pregnant women and lactating mothers, children aged 7 months to 6 years are being served eggs and bananas.

101. Government has launched ‘Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swayam Yojana’, under which direct cash benefit is being extended to those tribal students who are unable to get admission in hostel, to enable them to make their own arrangements.

102. In order to effectively implement the “Manodhairya Scheme”, which provides assistance to the victims of Rape, Acid attack, Sexually abused women and children to rehabilitate them, a well-trained District Trauma Team is being constituted in each district.

103. Responding to the residential needs of girl students from minority communities, construction of 18 hostels has been completed, which include new hostels at Selu, Pathari, Jintur, Amaravati and Nanded.

104. In the last two years, Maulana Azad Minorities Financial Development Corporation has given loans amounting to nearly Rs.103 crore to about 19,700 people.

105. Recognising the importance of preserving waqf properties, the Settlement Commissioner has been appointed to undertake detailed survey. Survey of waqf properties in Pune and Parbhani district will be undertaken on pilot basis.

106. As part of a sustained endeavour to promote the use of Marathi language in legal work, all new legislations and amendments in Marathi language are being made available in a timely manner on the website of Directorate of Languages.

107. Two new awards have been recently instituted namely “Dr. Ashok Kelkar Marathi Bhasha Abhyasak Puraskar ” for the valuable contribution for enhancing Marathi Language and “Kavi Mangesh Padgavkar Marathi Bhasha Samvardhak Puraskar ” for valuable contribution for promotion of Marathi Language.

108. In order to facilitate the participation of blind students in the “Reading Motivation Day”, which is celebrated on the birth anniversary of the former President of India, late Dr. A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, 21 blind schools located in 13 districts have been provided with 2100 talk books as Audio CDs.

109. My Government is serious and sensitive to the Maharashtra-Karnataka Border Dispute. An expert Committee constituted under Chairmanship of Chief Secretary is actively and continuously pursuing the progress of the matter in the Supreme Court.

110. It has been the endeavour of my Government to set up grand memorials to rededicate ourselves to the ideals of great leaders and social reformers, so that contemporary Maharashtra continues to draw inspiration from them.

111. Jalpujan– Bhumipujan of Shivaji Maharaj Smarak in Arabian Sea, near Mumbai, has been performed by Hon’ble Prime Minister on 24th December, 2016. For this project, work order to selected bidder will be issued shortly.

112. To commemorate the 350th year of construction of the formidable Sindhudurg Fort, built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to strengthen his naval force, Government organised Sindhudurg Mahotsav in April, 2016.

113. Chaityabhumi in Mumbai, being a sacred place inspiring followers, scholars and thinkers of Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar across the Globe, has been given status of “A” Class tourist destination by Government. An impressive monument of Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar of International standards is being installed nearby on the Indu Mill Land.

114. A plan of Rs.606 crore has been sanctioned by Central Government for the development of Raigad fort, the seat of the empire of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, comprising conservation and preservation of the Raigad fort, development of infrastructure and other amenities.

115. The Mayor's Bungalow of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai has been identified for the memorial of late Balasaheb Thackray. A Public Trust has been set up for this purpose.

Hon'ble Members, in this Session, Supplementary Demands, the Budget Estimates for the year 2017- 2018, Vote on Account, various bills, other Government and non-official business may be placed before you for your consideration.

I wish your deliberation in this Session every success.

Jai Hind ! Jai Maharashtra !