

MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. SPEAKER AND HON'BLE MEMBERS,

I extend a warm welcome to all of you to the first Session of the State Legislature for the year 2014.

2. The Government of Maharashtra has taken a decision to build a world-class National Monument of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj near Raj Bhavan in Arabian Sea. Competitive designs for the Monument have been invited from renowned architects from all over the world. A provision of Rs. 3.90 crore has been made in the current financial year. A decision has also been taken to provide an amount of Rs.110 crore.

3. The Government has also decided to erect a grand Memorial of Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj at Kolhapur in the Shahu Mill premises. The Municipal Corporation of Kolhapur has invited competitive designs for the Monument and the best design has been selected. A required amount is being provided for the Monument.

4. To bring the dream of Nation to construct an International level Memorial of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, into reality, the State Government has appointed the Maharashtra Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) as the Special Planning Authority for planning and implementation of the Project.

5. The construction of Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar Metro Rail Project in the State has been completed on Build-Own-Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis. The Central Government has recently accorded approval to the Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro Rail Project. The estimated Project cost of this completely underground metro corridor, stretching over 33.50 kilometres, is Rs.23,136 crore. The work on this Project is expected to be started in 2014-15.

6. The State Government has accorded approval to Pune Metro Rail Project in the Municipal Corporation area of Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad. Recently, the Central Government has also accorded approval to the Project. The estimated cost of Pune Metro Rail Project is Rs.10,583 crore which includes Line-1 from Pimpri-Chinchwad to Swargate having a length of 16.579 kilometres and Line-2 from Wanaj to Ramwadi having a length of 14.925 kilometres.

7. The State Government has also accorded approval to Nagpur Metro Rail Project consisting of two Metro Rail Corridors, one from Automotive Square to Mihan and another from Prajapati Nagar to Lokmanya Nagar having a total length of 38.215 kilometres. The estimated cost of the Project is Rs.8680 crore.

8. I am happy to state that, India's first Mono Rail Project from Wadala to Chembur in Mumbai has been completed and made functional.

9. My Government has launched an ambitious 'Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayi Arogya Yojana' for the ration card holder families whose annual income limit is upto Rs. 1 lakh. Beneficiaries of this Scheme are getting treatment in 971

procedures upto Rs. 1.50 lakh per year per family, through the network of hospitals throughout the State. Under this Scheme, which covers 2.11 crore beneficiary families, so far, 1.49 lakh surgeries have been performed. The Scheme is fully online and paperless.

10. For successful implementation of the National Blood Policy and with a view to make adequate quantity of quality blood available to needy patients at reasonable price within short time at expected spot, the Government of Maharashtra has introduced 'Blood on Call' Scheme. Under this Scheme, on dialing Toll Free No. 104, blood will be made available from cold storage chain through motorcycle rider at expected spot within an hour. This Scheme has been made operational throughout the State.

11. The Government has launched the National Food Security Scheme in the State under the National Food Security Act, from 1st February, 2014. Under the Scheme approximately 77% rural and 46% of urban population of the State will be covered with 7 crore beneficiaries entitled for food grains at subsidised rates such as, rice at Rs. 3 per kilogram, wheat at Rs. 2 per kilogram and coarse grain at Rs. 1 per kilogram. In addition to the above 7 crore beneficiaries, the State Government has also decided to continue the benefits to approximately 1.77 crore beneficiaries who are getting food grains at prevailing subsidised rates, under the existing public distribution system, by bearing an additional burden of Rs. 1200 crore.

12. While celebrating the Birth Centenary of Late Shri Vasantaoji Naik, the main Architect of Green Revolution in the State and former Chief Minister, a grand

agricultural exhibition '*Krishi Vasant*' was organized at Nagpur in collaboration with the Central Government. This was the largest agricultural exhibition in the Country in which approximately 7 lakh farmers participated and got exposure about the advanced technology. This is a matter of great satisfaction for the State.

13. Maharashtra was staring at a severe scarcity situation during early 2013 because of failed monsoons for two consecutive years. The scale of this scarcity was more than the magnitude of the infamous drought of 1972. The Government has incurred an expenditure of Rs.1000 crore for providing drinking water and related measures. The Government has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1435 crore for fodder Depots and Cattle camps in scarcity affected districts. The State Government has thus incurred an expenditure of Rs. 2435 crore for the drought affected people.

14. Due to heavy rains during monsoon season of 2013, a large part of the State was flooded which caused severe damage to the life and property, especially in Vidarbha region. A comprehensive package has been declared for financial help. Substantial financial assistance has been given for heirs of the deceased persons, owners of the deceased animals, affected houses, damaged crops and affected fishermen. The Government has spent more than Rs.8000 crore on drought and flood relief measures. With unique vision and planning, my Government has been able to handle and overcome the situation effectively.

15. To expedite Irrigation Projects for bringing additional area under irrigation, my Government has taken review of planning process. This has resulted into completion

of 500 Projects since 2009-10. During the current financial year another 90 Projects are being completed.

16. Government of Maharashtra is implementing Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project with financial assistance from World Bank. Out of total 6.45 lakh hectares command area included under the Project, canal rehabilitation works of 4.73 lakh hectares area have been completed. Canal distribution system for 4.28 lakh hectares has been handed over to the Water Users' Associations for effective Irrigation Management. Besides, dam safety work of 245 dams has also been completed.

17. As per the e-Governance policy, Government of Maharashtra is implementing an ambitious e-Governance Project 'e-Jalseva'. All 34 modules in this Project have gone live. Various services are being made available through e-Jalseva portal. The portal will facilitate citizens to get information about project-wise rotation programme, water entitlement available for farmers, releases from dam, flood alerts, water levels at strategic locations and control room details, easily.

18. For augmenting groundwater, providing protective irrigation and as a long term mitigation measure against recurring drought, a Programme for construction of Cement Nalla Bandhs i.e. check dams is undertaken. In the first phase, 1487 Cement Nalla Bandhs were constructed in short period of 3 to 6 months providing protective irrigation to 10,000 hectares. Encouraged by the results and impact, the Government has earmarked Rs. 665 crore in 2013-14 for this initiative.

19. Under the Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme (VIIDP), which is a centrally supported Programme to enhance the productivity of cotton in Vidarbha, through minor irrigation and modern agriculture practices, agriculture sector in Vidarbha is being strengthened.

20. The State has inherent geographical limitation in expanding the area under surface irrigation. Development of watershed is essential to develop about 82 % rainfed area of the State. The State is actively implementing the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) under which a sum of Rs. 5821 crore has been earmarked by the Central Government to cover 46 lakh hectares. Under the Programme Rs.980 crore have been spent so far covering 10 lakh hectares.

21. Total 272 Minor Irrigation Projects having irrigation potential of 10,336 hectares have been innovatively inaugurated in one shot on 13th January, 2014.

22. A 'Public-Private Partnership for Integrated Agriculture Development Programme' (PPP-IAD) is initiated under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Rs.100 crore was earmarked separately as the State share. So far, 16 Projects with the participation of eminent private organizations involving an expenditure of Rs. 279 crore have been sanctioned under PPP-IAD Programme. These projects will benefit approximately 1,79,000 farmers.

23. The 'Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme' originally initiated for orchard has been extended on experimental basis to the food grain and other crops. This will ensure financial stability to the farmers.

24. Under Dryland Farming Mission, the administrative approval has been accorded to a Programme of Rs. 150 crore consisting of protected irrigation facility, mechanisation, crop demonstration, protected farming, primary agriculture processing and marketing components. Villages from 25 districts of the State are selected to implement Dryland Farming Mission.

25. To mitigate the impact of drought and to provide better compensation to the farmers, the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme is being implemented for 16 *Kharif* and 8 *Rabbi* crops in the State of Maharashtra. During last season more than 25 lakh farmers participated in the Scheme, out of them about 4 lakh farmers were disbursed with an amount of Rs.201 crore by Agriculture Insurance Company as a compensation in the *Kharif* season. In *Rabbi* season, an amount of Rs. 562 crore has been declared as a compensation to approximately 9 lakh farmers.

26. As per declared policy of establishing at least 1 Agriculture College in every district, 3 new Agriculture Colleges have been sanctioned in Hingoli, Nandurbar and Satara Districts and 1 Agriculture Bio-Technology College has also been sanctioned at Yavatmal.

27. For commendable contribution in Rice Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has conferred on the Maharashtra State the 'Krishi Karman Award' for 2012-13.

28. Remarkable progress has been made in implementation of 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' in Maharashtra. Under this

Scheme, in the current financial year, an expenditure of Rs. 906 crore has been incurred and provided employments to more than 15 lakh persons. Under this Scheme, in 18,000 village panchayats of the State, works are being carried out and the Government has organized 'Sarpancha Melavas' at the division level to speed up the works. This Scheme has also been implemented in 'C' Class Municipal Councils. The Government has taken various steps to increase transparency. A remarkable increase has been shown in demand for work from labourers due to the 'Kaam Mango Abhiyan' launched by the Central Government.

29. Under the Jawahar Vihir Yojana, the amount of subsidy has been raised since January, 2014, from Rs.1 lakh to 2.50 lakh per well.

30. The requirement of public contribution under Rural Water Supply Scheme for new and the first Piped Water Supply Scheme in the village has been relaxed. For the remaining Piped Water Supply Schemes, a revised Policy for public contribution lowering burden on the beneficiaries has been adopted. The Government has accorded sanction to launch Jalswarajya-II Programme in the State with the assistance of the World Bank.

31. Rapid increase in urbanization with industrial growth has adverse impact on river water pollution. Most of the rivers have been polluted due to municipal and industrial liquid waste leading to health hazards. To mitigate the river water pollution and to maintain the water quality of the rivers, the River Conservation Plan is undertaken.

32. Considering the increasing necessity of the crop loan, for the *Kharif* season of 2013-14, a crop loan of Rs. 22,831 crore has been disbursed to the farmers by the District Central Co-operative Banks, Commercial Banks and Rural Banks. Under Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Interest Subsidy Scheme, farmers avail crop loan upto Rs. 1 lakh interest free and beyond Rs. 1 lakh upto Rs. 3 lakh at 2 % interest rate. Under the Scheme, so far a subsidy of Rs.220 crore has been distributed.

33. Harassment to the farmer debtors at the hands of money-lenders was a matter of great concern for my Government. As a part of the remedial measures to overcome the situation, a new law has been enacted for effective regulation of transactions of money-lending in the State by repealing the old law. I hope, this will definitely curb such harassment. A helpline has also been launched for lodging complaints and grievances to the Government regarding money-lenders transactions.

34. From last few years, before crushing season in the State, there are agitations for getting higher price to sugarcane from various farmers associations. Taking into consideration, the need to decide sugarcane price on the basis of revenue generated by sugar factories and the recommendations of Dr. C. Rangrajan Committee, a comprehensive law has been enacted, which will help to ensure greater certainty, stability and rationality in the Sugar Sector.

35. The Government has executed two Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Private Limited, which is a subsidiary of the

National Dairy Development Board. Out of these, one is for increasing milk production in Vidarbha and Marathwada region and another for setting up an Ultra Modern Dairy at Gove-Bhiwandi in Thane District with the capacity upto 5 lakh litres and scalable upto 10 lakh litres.

36. With a view to implement the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers Forest Rights Act, forest land has been diverted to provide amenities including 158 schools, 208 roads, 74 community halls and 53 water works in the tribal villages of the State. Under this law, till date about 1.50 lakh beneficiaries have been distributed *Pattas* of land occupied by them covering 3,21,788 acres of land. A financial assistance is also being provided for agricultural development. The issue of the Dali land holders and Eksali land holders pending for a long due to administrative problems has been settled, by taking a decision to distribute *Pattas* to them and converting 73 forest villages into revenue villages thereby recognizing a large number of forest rights of tribals.

37. I am happy to inform that, the boundaries of entire forest area in the State have been digitized. All digitized maps are made available on the Government website and also been placed on GIS platform online. All Forest Guards are being provided Personal Digital Assistance (PDA) to record forest offences, movement of wild animals and management of plantation sites.

38. As a commitment towards ecological conservation in coastal areas, about 12,000 hectares area of mangroves has been brought under the network of reserve and protected

forests. Mangroves plantation over 100 hectares area has also been undertaken.

39. The State has distributed more than 4,50,000 certificates under '*Suvarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan*' by organizing Camps and cognizance of this has been taken at National level. The record number of 30,000 kilometres of encroached roads are cleared and 6,85,000 mutation entries have been taken in village records.

40. To speed up revenue administration and provide quick services to citizens, 67 new Sub-divisions have been formed all over State and are also made functional.

41. A novel Scheme for accepting stamp duty and registration fee through a payment gateway GRAS has been introduced by the Government of Maharashtra first time in the Country. This will facilitate safe and easy services for public in the State. A new system of e-Registration has been introduced to facilitate the registration of instruments directly from the place of residence without visiting Sub-Registrar Office.

42. My Government has dispensed with the condition of previous sanction for transferring the land where 10 years have elapsed from the purchase of land by the tenant under Tenancy laws. This will give a great relief to the farmers in the State.

43. A decision has been taken to impart training to the students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes through 8 Universities and 2 Training Centres for preparing them to appear for pre-competitive examinations of Indian Administrative Services and State Administrative Services

conducted by Union Public Service Commission and Maharashtra Public Service Commission.

44. A decision has also been taken to establish a separate Education Cell for enhancement of standard of education of the tribal students in the Government and aided Ashram Schools. For the safety of the girl students, the Government has taken a decision to have the post of one Lady-Superintendent and one Watchman in each of the 556 aided Ashram Schools and thus created 1112 posts.

45. Having a great tradition of progressive social reforms, Maharashtra has enacted a pioneer law for prevention and eradication of human sacrifice and other inhuman, evil and *aghor* practices and black magic.

46. For expediting the process of verification of the Caste Certificates, availing reservation in education, employment and election, the Government has decided to establish district-wise Caste Verification Committees in addition to the existing Committees.

47. The Central Government has declared the National Policy for Senior Citizens. On these lines, the State Government has also declared the State Policy for Senior Citizens, which will enable the senior citizens in the State to live dignified life with security and adequate medical facilities.

48. With sustainable progressive approach for overall development and empowerment of women, the Maharashtra has declared the third 'Women's Policy' for the State. This reflects the commitment of the State Government towards empowerment of women. I am happy to state that, this Policy has been appreciated by the Central Government.

49. The Government has launched the '*Manodhairya Yojana*' for financial assistance and rehabilitation of women and children who are victims of rape, sexual assault or acid attack. With a view to resolve the serious social problem of violence against women, the Government has established 87 Counselling Centres which have been made operational.

50. In order to improve the quality of girls education and health, prevent child marriages and female foeticide as well as to increase the birth rate of girls, '*Sukanya Yojana*' has been launched in the State, under which an amount of Rs.21,200 will be invested in the name of girl child and on completion of 18 years of her age an amount of Rs.1 lakh will be given to her.

51. Under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), *Anganwadi Sevika*, *Mini Anganwadi Sevika* and *Anganwadi* Helpers have been brought under the cover of the Life Insurance Corporation Scheme thereby making *Anganwadi Sevikas* or their legal heirs entitled for Rs.1 lakh and *Mini Anganwadi Sevika* and Helpers or their legal heirs for Rs. 75,000, after their retirement or death.

52. The Government is committed to implement the recommendations of Justice Sachar Committee and 15 Point Programme of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The Government has implemented various Welfare Schemes for the socio-economic upliftment and educational development of minorities in the State, including Maulana Azad Free Coaching and Allied Scheme, Madarasa Modernisation Scheme, Scholarship to the students pursuing higher and professional education, Hostels for girls in every district and

Employment Oriented Training Programme. A required provision has been made for the purpose.

53. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act has been successfully implemented in the State.

54. A crucial decision has been taken to bring on permanent grant basis, the Higher Secondary Schools and Junior Colleges in the State, which are on permanent non-grant basis. The decision will be implemented from 1st April, 2014. This will reduce drop-out rate among girl students in the rural areas.

55. In 2013-14, 5000 computer laboratories are made available in aided Secondary Schools in the State. So far, 8000 Secondary Schools have such computer laboratories.

56. In last 3 years, the Government has supplied 11.52 lakh desk-benches to 23 lakh students studying in the schools run by the Local Bodies.

57. Environment Education has been introduced as a new subject for the students in XIth and XIIth Standard. This will create an awareness among the students toward environment and help in protection and conservation of environment.

58. An approval for establishing the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in the State at Pune and Nagpur on Public-Private Partnership basis has been accorded. An expenditure of Rs. 165 crore each is expected.

59. The Government has decided to introduce the system of recruitment of Honorary Professors and Professor

Emeritus in the Government colleges. This will facilitate inclusion of experts of various fields and sharing of their comprehensive knowledge.

60. For the development and advancement of legal education and to give impetus for training and research in systems of law, a decision has taken to establish the Maharashtra National Law Universities at Mumbai, Aurangabad and Nagpur. A law for this purpose has also been enacted.

61. Maharashtra has achieved remarkable success in reducing Maternal Mortality Rate. The Maternal Mortality Ratio for the Country stands 212 per 1 lakh live births while in Maharashtra it is 104. Maharashtra has been honoured with 4 National Awards for safe deliveries and for reduction in the rate of neo-natal mortality, mortality of children under 5 years of age and infant mortality.

62. From the academic year 2013-14, the Medical Council of India has given permission to increase 50 seats each in 10 out of 14 Government Medical Collages in the State, totalling 500 seats. This will facilitate the public in the State to get more medical services.

63. The State Police Force has succeeded in reducing effect of Naxalism in Gadchiroli, Gondia and Chandrapur districts in the State. In 2013-14, to strengthen the Anti-Naxal Operations in Naxal affected areas and repose confidence of public, *Janjagran Melawas* and *Grambhets* are being organised extensively. The *Navasanjivan* Project which is aimed to have dialogue with more and more Naxals to surrender and lay down their arms has resulted in

surrender of 49 Naxals. To expose the school going children of naxal-affected tribal areas to the urban Maharashtra, a new Scheme '*Apla Maharashtra Suvarna Jayanti Yojana*' has been launched. Under Special Infrastructure Scheme, various facilities have been created and fortified police stations are proposed.

64. For providing adequate safety and security to the citizens, the Government has decided to create 61,491 new posts in the State Police Force, in 5 years, in 5 phases. Out of these, recently in first phase 12,379 posts have been approved by the Government.

65. For encouraging women in the taxi business and enhancing the feeling of safety in passengers, Women's Phone Fleet Taxi Scheme has been implemented in the Mumbai Metropolitan Area.

66. The Government has decided to redistribute in two phases, the cancelled, dormant or expired auto-rickshaw permits and the process is in progress.

67. Maharashtra has been able to attract the highest Foreign Direct Investment in the Country. The Maharashtra has highest 18% share of investment amounting to Rs. 10,21,633 crore in the total investment involved in industrial proposals filed with the Government of India in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

68. In order to maintain its leadership in attracting greater industrial investment and for creating additional opportunities of employment in the State, the Government of Maharashtra has created a special category of Mega Projects under 'Package Scheme of Incentives' as 'Ultra Mega

Projects'. The Mega Project Policy has received a good response. Under the Mega Project Policy, the Government of Maharashtra has approved 403 Mega Projects with an assured investment of Rs. 3,21,091 crore and 3.57 lakh expected employments. Out of these 403 Mega Projects, 114 projects have gone into production.

69. Maharashtra is leading in Unique Identification Number (UID) (AADHAAR) enrolment. Till date, more than 8.7 crore residents have been enrolled and Aadhaar cards are generated for approximately 8.2 crore residents, which is the highest number in the Country. For this achievement, Maharashtra has secured 10 National and International awards.

70. An ambitious e-office Project is being implemented in Maharashtra to bring in paperless office within the State Government. Considerable numbers of persons are using the system at present in Mantralaya, thus making it the largest deployment of e-office anywhere in the Country. My Government is committed to ensure that, benefits of e-Governance reach to every person residing in the State in local language. The focus has been on localization with the Home Page of all websites being in Marathi language. More and more content is now available in Marathi, which enables maximum people to use the same. The Government has executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with C-DAC to focus on training, research and content development in Marathi. Multiple Mobile applications including Survey and Audit, Government Resolution Search and Maha News with an aim to bring efficiency and effectiveness in Scheme implementation, have been developed.

71. Maharashtra State has achieved 100% Power availability against its demand. During 2008-09 there were 1800 sub-stations in Maharashtra which have been now increased to 2680. During last 5 years, distribution transformers have been increased by 2,71,766. Electricity Consumers in the State have also been increased from 1.56 crore to 2.17 crore.

72. In Maharashtra, during last 5 years, total 60 lakh domestic, agricultural, commercial and industrial connections have been given. Maharashtra State is leading in the Country in agricultural pumps energisation. So far, 39.19 lakh agricultural pump connections have been given.

73. In last 5 years, MAHAGENCO has added thermal capacity of 2000 Mega Watt (MW) and solar power capacity of 130 Mega Watt (MW). Besides, erection of Power Projects in the different parts of the State is in full swing.

74. MAHAGENCO has commissioned 125 Mega Watt (MW) Solar Power Project at Sakri, District Dhule in March, 2013. It has started generating power on regular basis. This is the biggest Solar Power Project in India at single location and is one of the prestigious Project in Asia of its kind.

75. Maharashtra is the first State in the Country to establish Green Energy Fund for the development of renewable energy resources. An extensive Programme for electrification of remote villages through renewable energy is undertaken.

76. A large number of 1,67,524 Construction Workers have been registered with the Maharashtra Building and

other Construction Workers Welfare Board and up to January, 2014 a cess amount of Rs. 1821 crore has been collected with the Board. Various Welfare Schemes are being implemented for these registered Construction Workers.

77. For Domestic Workers, the Domestic Workers Board has been established and 2,49,508 Domestic Workers are registered with the Board. Alongwith various Welfare Schemes, a new Scheme has been introduced which will enable Domestic Workers of the age of 55 years and above to get Rs. 10,000 per year as '*Sanman Dhan*'.

78. With a view to encourage the children of the Construction Workers and Domestic Workers for education, the Government has taken a decision to distribute Laptops and Tablets to the children.

79. With an aim to bring a social change through education, foreign language classes for children of labourers registered with the Maharashtra Labour Welfare Board are started at 32 centres in the first phase. Total beneficiaries in the first phase commenced from October, 2013 are 782. Beneficiaries in the second phase commenced from January, 2014 are about 1,200 at 48 centres. It is proposed to teach English, French, Russian, Japanese, Chinese and German languages to all interested children. This will benefit them to attract international tourists and adequate employment.

80. My Government is committed to provide speedy justice to the citizens and make available adequate facilities for the purpose. Recently, the e-Court has been made

functional in the High Court at Mumbai. An ambitious Plan, for disposal of cases of sexual harassment and other offences relating to women, through Fast Track Courts and Special Courts for women has also been prepared and results are quite encouraging.

81. The Government has decided to provide financial assistance to the tune of 250 crore to 92 willing Urban Local Bodies, from the Maharashtra *Niwara Nidhi* to meet cost escalation in Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) Project. This will result in completion of more than 40,000 Dwelling Units for slum dwellers. My Government is committed to implement Rajiv Awas Yojana for slum dwellers. Initial selection of 46 Urban Local Bodies including all Municipal Corporations in the State has been approved by the Government of India.

82. The State Government continues to make efforts to provide houses for Mill Workers of Mumbai. In the next phase the MHADA will undertake construction of approximately 3000 tenements on 2.84 hectares of land made available from 11 Sick or Closed Textile Mills.

83. I am happy to inform that, the Hon'ble President of India has accorded his assent to the Maharashtra Housing (Regulation and Development) Bill. Maharashtra thus has become the first State in the Country to set up the Housing Regulatory Authority which will remove discrepancies in advertisements given by developers, redress grievances, bring transparency and discipline and prevent malpractices in the Housing Sector.

84. The Government has declared a New Textile Policy of the State and so far, an investment of about Rs.12,000 crore is attracted with more than 1 lakh expected new employments in the Textile Sector.

85. The State Government has taken various decisions for effective implementation of the PESA Act in the State. Recently, the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act has been amended to declare habitations or hamlets in the Scheduled Areas as a village. Besides, the rules under PESA Act have also been published. This will preserve the customs and traditions of the tribal people residing in the Scheduled Areas and enhance their participation in the process of governance.

86. For providing better tenements under the Indira Awas Yojana construction cost of the tenement has been raised by the State Government from Rs.70,000 to Rs.1 lakh.

87. It is a pleasure to mention that, Maharashtra is leading in mission mode Project of e-Panchayat rollout across India. In appreciation of the E-initiatives, Maharashtra State is projected as a Model State by the Government of India to be emulated by other States in the Country. An ambitious Programme to provide banking services to the rural citizens in the villages itself through Village Panchayat 'Sangram' Kendras has also been undertaken.

88. The Government has completed construction work of 86 Administrative buildings at Tehsil and District headquarters with an expenditure of Rs.345 crore. Construction work of 77 Administrative buildings costing about Rs. 490 crore is under progress.

89. Gadchiroli and Gondia districts in Maharashtra being Naxal affected, are included under 'Central Road Fund Scheme'. Under this Scheme, the Government of India has approved 29 works with approximate expenditure of Rs. 810 crore.

90. In the State, 4484 kilometres road length out of 2.42 lakh kilometres road length has been developed through Public Works Department, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation and National Highway Authority on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis. So far, 67 Toll Plazas have been closed. For bringing uniform policy regarding the projects to be implemented under Public-Private Partnership Scheme, a Public-Private Partnership Toll Policy is under consideration of the Government.

91. My Government has taken a decision to construct a grand 'Marathi Language Research, Development and Cultural Centre' at Rang Bhavan Open Theatre, Dhobi Talav, Mumbai, with construction Plan of 10,175 sq.mt. and approved expenditure of Rs.80.20 crore.

92. A decision has been taken to prepare e-books of 500 publications published by offices working for development of Marathi language and to celebrate Marathi Bhasha Samvardhan Pandharvada from 1st May to 15th May, every year.

93. The Government has undertaken a Project to preserve by way of digitization 956 rarest books having vast literal, social and historical value and to make them available on the Government website.

94. The valuable instruments in *Modi* script dealing with subjects such as Literature, Culture, Social, Education and History, available with Tamil University, Tanjavur are being transcribed into *Devnagari* script. Out of about 4,00,000 such documents 65,000 manuscripts have been completed.

95. Maharashtra has been consistently working towards promoting its Tourist Destinations and World Heritage Sites so as to put them on the international tourism map. Considering the importance of tourism in the State, the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation has organized 'Diwali Celebration' at Times Square in New York, in September, 2013. This has resulted into showcasing of Maharashtra's culture and tourism on the international platform.

96. The World Heritage Sites of Ajanta and Ellora caves are famous among national and international tourists. Considering the importance of these caves, the Central Government and the State Government, under Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Development Project, completed the Replicated Depiction of the Caves and from September, 2013 were opened for the benefits of the tourists.

97. To resolve the long pending Maharashtra-Karnataka Border dispute and to forcefully and assertively articulate the interest of the State in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, eminent lawyers have been engaged. I reiterate my Government's commitment to resolve the dispute. For effective co-ordination a senior officer having specialized knowledge of Maharashtra-Karnataka Border dispute has also been appointed.

98. Hon'ble Members, during the present Session you have to consider Supplementary Demands for the year 2013-14, Interim Budget for the year 2014-15, Vote on Account, and other urgent Government business, which may be brought before you for consideration.

I wish your deliberations during the present Session every success.

Jai Hind ! Jai Maharashtra !!