

**SPEECH OF SRI EATALA RAJENDER, HONOURABLE
FINANCE MINISTER WHILE PRESENTING THE
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2018-19 TO THE STATE
LEGISLATURE ON MARCH 15, 2018**

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I consider it as a great privilege and honour to present the fifth consecutive Budget of the State. On this occasion, I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao garu for reposing trust in me and entrusting me with this great responsibility.

2. We have successfully completed nearly four years of the formation of the State. As we are shortly entering the fifth year, let me briefly recapitulate the long struggle for the attainment of statehood by over three and a half crore people, the unflinching leadership behind the struggle, injustice meted out to Telangana in the combined State in irrigation, allocation of financial resources and employment - Neellu, Nidhulu and Niyamakalu and the precarious power and economic situation at the time of formation of the new State. We also need to recall the tremendous

efforts put in by the State to address the acute power shortage and to put the State economy back on track through the initiation of a number of innovative schemes. We have crossed a number of milestones in fulfilment of the aspirations of people. Within a short period of 45 months, we have achieved significant and noteworthy development in a number of areas. We have moved from darkness to light, from despondency to self-confidence, from deprivation to development and from migration to agricultural development. The formulation of the fifth Budget of the State is in continuation of this journey and reflects the commitment of the Hon'ble Chief Minister that welfare and development programmes should benefit the poor.

STATE ECONOMY

3. The average annual GSDP growth rate of the Telangana region at constant prices in the combined State was barely 4.2% in the two years (2012-13 and 2013-14) immediately preceding the formation of the new State, as compared with the national average of 5.9 per cent. After the formation of the new State, the

growth picked up momentum and there is a perceptible increase in the growth from year to year.

4. The growth at constant prices improved from 5.4 per cent in 2013-14 to 6.8 per cent in 2014-15 and this improvement continued in all the succeeding years. The growth rates in 2015-16 and 2016-17 were 8.6 percent and 10.1 percent respectively. During the current year 2017-18, the economy of Telangana is estimated to grow at 10.4 per cent in real terms as compared with the national GDP growth of 6.6 per cent. The higher GSDP growth in Telangana is noteworthy.

5. I am glad to bring to the notice of this August House that Telangana achieved a double-digit growth bucking the national trend, despite the adverse short term to medium term impact of demonetisation and the teething problems following the introduction of GST.

6. The manufacturing sector, which had been registering negative growth rates in the Telangana region of the combined State, has turned around because of the significant improvement

in the power situation and investor friendly investment policies and achieved a growth of 6.4 percent in 2015-16. This improved further to 7.4 percent in the year 2016-17. Advance estimates put the growth of manufacturing sector at 7.6 percent in 2017-18.

7. Because of the significant improvement in power situation and augmentation of irrigation facilities, agricultural growth is promising. The growth of agriculture and allied sectors is estimated to reach 6.9 percent in 2017-18. With improvement of irrigation as a result of projects and renovation of tanks, 24 hour uninterrupted power supply and optimum utilization of ground water, there is likely to be further improvement in agriculture sector in 2018-19. Let us all pray for a timely and normal rainfall.

8. Overall, GSDP at current prices which was Rs.6,41,985 crore last year (2016-17) is estimated to increase to Rs.7,32,657 crore in 2017-18, recording a growth of 14.1%.

9. The growth of per capita income is improving year after year. The per capita income of the State at current prices is estimated to increase by 13.4% from Rs.1,54,734 in 2016-17 to

Rs. 1,75,534 in 2017-18. This is significantly higher than the national growth of 8.6%.

10. If we observe the situation before and after the formation of the State, the progress is crystal clear. This was possible only because of the perceptible improvement in the formulation of innovative growth and welfare enhancing policies and their proper implementation. The progress is the result of formulation of appropriate policies after proper assessment of resources and needs of people. The same principles have been followed in the preparation of the Budget for 2018-19. Let me now present before the House important allocations proposed in the Budget.

AGRICULTURE

11. The growth of agricultural sector is vital for the development of the State. The policies adopted in the combined State have pushed the agriculture sector into crisis. The Government has decided to revive agriculture sector in Telangana for strengthening rural economy. To provide immediate relief to farmers, our Government has waived the crop loans in the first

instance. The crop loans of 35,29,944 farmers amounting to Rs.16,124 crore were paid by the Government to the banks.

Investment Support Scheme:

12. The problems of the farmers can be mitigated only when the Government provides irrigation facilities, investment and remunerative price for their produce. The irrigation problems are addressed by constructing projects with lightning speed on one hand and reviving tanks on the other. The Government has taken a remarkable and innovative decision to address the investment problem of farmers. Investment is very crucial for farmers during cultivation. The farmer is getting caught in the vicious debt trap with huge interest burden when he borrows money to meet his investment needs for cultivation. To save the farmer from this distress, Government has decided to provide the required investment to farmers. None of the Governments in the country could think of such a bold move to help the farmers in the history of the independent India. In this respect, under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri K.C.R, Telangana stood as a role model for the country.

13. From the year 2018-19 onwards government will provide investment support at a rate of Rs.4000/- per acre per crop for two crops (totalling to Rs.8000/- per acre) to every farmer. The investment support for khariff season, will be distributed from April onwards and for Rabi from November onwards to the farmers in the entire state. For this Scheme an amount of Rs. 12,000 crore is proposed in the Budget.

Land Records Updation Programme :

14. Accurate land records are essential for providing investment support to the farmers. Our Government took up the gigantic task of comprehensive land records updation programme (LRUP) in the State. The land records pertaining to 10,823 villages were verified by 1507 teams of Revenue Department account wise in respect of 72,13,111 khatas and necessary updations were carried out. Working day and night, the teams have surveyed and certified/purified 96% of land records as litigation free and up to date. The Government is shortly launching “DHARANI” website with details of all land records in the State.

Simplified Land Registration:

15. The Government has decided to simplify registration of agricultural and non-agricultural lands. Sale deeds are being standardised. The responsibility of registration of lands in the Mandals where there are no registration offices, is being entrusted to Mandal Revenue Officers. This will ensure land registration and mutation on the same day.

Rythu Samanvaya Samithi (Farmers' Coordination Committee) :

16. The groups in unorganised sector are unable to achieve their rights. Nobody cares for the rights of these sections. The plight of farmers in Telangana is exactly similar. The farmers in Telangana are far behind in achieving their legitimate rights and benefits. The farmers are facing these problems because they did not appreciate the strength of being organised. The farmers should understand the strength of unity. To convert the idea of Hon'ble Chief Minister of unity and coordination among farmers into a reality, "Rythu Samanvaya Samithies" (Farmer Coordination Committees) are formed.

17. Farmer Coordination Committees with 1,61,000 farmer members across the state is formed. Farmer Committees are constituted - at Village level with 15 members, at Mandal and District levels with 24 members each and at the State level with 42 members. The State level committee will have representatives of farmers, agricultural officers, scientists and experts as members.

18. This Committee will function as a link between farmers and Government. The mandate of the farmers' committee is to create a sense of mutual co-operation among farmers, bring awareness and enlighten farmers to resolve the problems of the sector and to ensure minimum support price to the produce of the farmers. The Committee may mediate between farmers and buyers to achieve the support price for harvested crop. The Committee may procure agriculture produce if the market prices are not remunerative. Government will guarantee the procurement and provide necessary funds.

Farmers' Forum (Rythu Vedika):

19. Farmers need a platform to exchange their views and to discuss various issues concerning them. The Government has already appointed an Agriculture Extension Officer for a cluster of 5000 acres. On the same lines, Government will set up a farmers' forum for every cluster.

Rythu Bheema :

20. Majority of farmers in Telangana are small and marginal. The family of the farmer suffers untold miseries when a crop fails, and if the farmer who is the head of the family dies, then situation of the entire family suddenly goes topsy-turvy. In such a situation, the wife and the children of such a farmer face a bleak future.

Hon'ble Chief Minister is determined to ensure that the family of the farmer should not be on roads if such a difficulty arises. To standby such farmer families, a new Farmer Group Insurance Scheme called "Rythu Bhima Pathakam" is going to be implemented. The farmers in the State would be covered with a life insurance cover of Rs.5.00 lakh under the scheme. For the

“Rythu Bhima Pathakam” an amount of Rs. 500 crore is proposed in the Budget.

Promotion of Farm Mechanization:

21. Farm mechanisation reduces drudgery and costs in addition to timely completion of agricultural activities. Government is promoting extensive mechanisation of agriculture by providing incentives. Government is supplying machinery and spare parts at a subsidised price. So far, 13,934 tractors, 31,274 farm equipment, 4,71,000 tarpaulins, and 26,179 sprayers were distributed at a subsidy ranging from 50% to 95% to the farmers in Telangana. Along with these items, it is proposed to distribute transplantors at subsidised rates. For promotion of farm mechanisation an amount of Rs. 522 crore is proposed in the Budget.

Drip Irrigation:

22. Drip irrigation is beneficial for Telangana. More area can be irrigated with less water under this method. In Telangana, 14 lakh acres are cultivated with drip irrigation method. Our

government has targeted to bring another 29 lakh acres under micro/drip irrigation. Government is providing 100% subsidy to SCs /STs, 90% subsidy to small and marginal farmers and BCs, and 80% subsidy to others for purchase of micro irrigation equipment. Earlier subsidy was given for a maximum of 2¹/₂ acres not exceeding Rs. 1 lakh to each farmer. But at present our Government is giving subsidy for a maximum of 12 ¹/₂ acres up to Rs.6.25 lakhs. For promoting of micro irrigation, a sum of Rs. 127 crore is proposed in this Budget.

Polyhouses and Greenhouses:

23. Our Government is giving a subsidy of 75% for establishing polyhouses and green houses, to small and marginal farmers. With Government's initiatives, the greenhouse and polyhouse cultivation has increased. In the combined State, the cultivation under polyhouses was limited to 129 acres. The subsidy was limited to 50% and ½ acre only, but now our government is giving a higher subsidy up to 75% for establishing polyhouses, and after formation of Telangana, 1150 acres are brought under polyhouse

cultivation. An amount of Rs. 120 crore is proposed in the Budget towards polyhouse and greenhouse cultivation.

Development of Marketing Facilities :

24. After formation of Telangana, the Government has undertaken many initiatives to strengthen the Marketing Department. Procurement centres are being established as per the requirement/demand. Exclusive market yards are being established for vegetables, fruits etc. Integrated markets are being established for the convenience of consumers. Rythu bazars are being constructed with all modern facilities. Roadside vegetable markets with all facilities are being constructed for the benefit of street vegetable vendors.

Construction of Godowns :

25. Our government has increased the capacity of godowns considerably. At the time of formation of Telangana State, there was a storage capacity of 4.00 lakh tonnes only. In the last 3 ½ years, our Government has newly constructed 356 godowns which enhanced the storage capacity to 22.47 lakh tonnes. It has also been decided to have at least one godown in every Mandal.

Cold Storage Linkages:

26. Our Government took a decision to have cold storage linkage in the State to preserve perishable agriculture produce and to keep them fresh for longer duration. For the developmental activities under taken by the Marketing Department, an amount of Rs. 132 crore is proposed in this Budget. An amount of Rs. 15,788 crore is proposed towards Agriculture and Marketing sectors.

CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

27. The State Government, during the last khariff, has procured record quantity of 53.67 lakh MTs of paddy from 11 lakh farmers through 5217 paddy procurement centres, spending Rs.8,100 crore.

28. E-PoS machines have been installed in all the 17,027 fair price shops in the State. As a result, the subsidy would be passed on to the genuine beneficiaries. An amount of Rs. 2,946 crore is proposed to the Civil Supplies sector in this Budget.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS

29. With an aim of providing irrigation facilities to one crore acres, our Government undertook the task of construction of

Irrigation Projects. 23 major and 13 medium irrigation projects are being constructed on Godavari and Krishna rivers. Palamuru project which was pending for decades are being completed at rapid pace. As on date irrigation facilities are provided to 6 ½ lakh acres in old Palamuru district. By this monsoon, irrigation will be provided to 8 lakh acres. Palamur Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Project is being constructed at a fast pace as a permanent solution to the problems of three districts : erstwhile Palamuru with high migrant labour, fluoride affected erstwhile Nalgonda district and severely drought effected erstwhile Ranga Reddy district. The determination and commitment exhibited by the Government in completing these projects have instilled immense confidence in people. The daily workers who earlier left villages and migrated to other areas for livelihood are returning back to their native places indicating a process of reverse migration.

30. The Government completed the Bhakta Ramadasu Lift Irrigation Project in a record time. The drought prone Paleru Constituency has become fertile land. The Sita Rama Project Lift Irrigation project on the Godavari River is progressing rapidly to

make Khammam a fertile district. From Kaleswaram Project, which is considered as a blessing for combined Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Medak, Warangal and Nalgonda districts, we would start pumping water and give partial benefits in a few months. In another two years, Kaleswaram Project with reservoirs and canals would be completed. The works are in progress on a war footing for providing irrigation to nearly 36.75 lakh acres. With relentless persuasion, Government could get all permissions for Kaleswaram project on time.

31. Through Mission Kakatiya Scheme, tanks are being rejuvenated. In the first phase, tanks with highest water retaining capacity were revived and the works in other tanks are in progress.

32. An amount of Rs. 25,000 crore is proposed for Irrigation in the Budget 2018-19.

REVIVING RURAL ECONOMY

33. Urbanisation alone should not be perceived as development. Only when the rural economy expands, the development is

inclusive and comprehensive. Telangana Government is implementing a strategy for reviving the rural economy. An action plan is being implemented for improving the living standards in rural areas. While initiating measures for growth of agriculture sector, Government is also implementing schemes for allied sectors. Government has formulated special schemes for the artisans dependant on rural economy.

34. For comprehensive development of villages and to strengthen the Panchayat System, Government is going to introduce a 'New Panchayat Raj Bill' in this session.

35. Recently Government has appointed the "First Telangana State Finance Commission" for recommending devolution of financial resources to rural and urban local bodies.

36. Further, for strengthening the rural local bodies, Rs. 1,500 crore and for urban local bodies, an amount of Rs. 1,000 crore is proposed in the Budget. This itself bears testimony of our Government's commitment towards local bodies.

Sheep Breeding :

37. Sheep breeding is the traditional profession of Golla, Kuruma communities. If properly managed a flock of sheep is an ever increasing asset. Due to negligence of earlier governments, in spite of having skills, the Golla Kuruma communities did not receive any encouragement. In order to improve the living standards of lakhs of Gollas and Kurumas in the State, our Government has decided to develop sheep breeding as an industry and started distributing sheep in a big way. In the first phase, it was decided to distribute 84 lakh sheep to 4 lakh families. In the current year, as of date more than 50 lakh sheep were already distributed at 75% subsidy to two lakh, thirty five thousand families. These sheep gave birth to 17 lakh lamb babies resulting in an addition of 67 lakhs sheep stock in the State. For implementing the sheep breeding scheme in the first phase, an amount of Rs.5,000 crore was provided. This scheme is being implemented not only with budgetary allocations but also off budget borrowings from financial institutions.

38. This scheme is reviving the rural economy and is in the process contributing to the progress of the State. The meat required for the State is being produced in the State itself. It is the endeavour of the Government to place the State in the first position in meat production. Government has decided to encourage meat processing units to process the meat and export it to national and international markets.

Fish Farming (Pisciculture):

39. Gangaputra, Mudiraj, Boya and Bantu communities depend on fish farming for their livelihood. Their population is sizeable in Telangana. There are enough water resources for fish farming in the State. To augment the already existing reservoirs and tanks, the Government is constructing many new projects. Through Mission Kakatiya, thousands of tanks are being revived. These measures make thousands of TMC of storage capacity of water resources available. If fish farming is taken up in all these, the State would have enormous wealth of fish and all the fishermen in the State can get employment. Government has designed and is implementing a scheme in this direction.

Government has developed action plan to produce 3,20,000 tonnes of fish every year. For this purpose, fish seed is being distributed free of cost. The fishing rights have been completely granted to the fishermen. To provide marketing facilities to these fishermen, 31 wholesale fish market at a rate of one market per district and 200 retail markets are being established. To supplement the budgetary allocations to this scheme, funds are being provided through off budget borrowings from the financial institutions.

Encouragement of Poultry:

40. Hyderabad has developed as a poultry industry hub and the State is considered as “Egg Basket of India”. The State ranks no.1 in chicks and feed production in the entire country. In the production of chicken meat, our State is in second place in the country. Directly and indirectly lakhs of people are depending on poultry industry. With the development of poultry sector, healthy food like eggs and meat will be available in abundance. The Government is providing power at subsidised tariff to poultry industry. To augment this sector, Government is taking up many

more measures. For the development of poultry sector, an amount of Rs. 109 crore is proposed in this Budget.

WELFARE SECTOR

41. This Government is spending more money on welfare programmes to ensure upliftment of the poor people. Telangana is implementing unique welfare schemes which are not being implemented anywhere in the country. Welfare to every house, happiness in every face is the slogan with which the Government is implementing these schemes to provide assurance to the people. This administration of the Hon'ble Chief Minister can be considered as a golden era for welfare.

Aasara Pensions :

42. To support the destitute and helpless, the Government is giving monthly pensions. Pensions at a rate of Rs.1,000/- per month are being paid to the aged, widows, toddy tappers, weavers, aids patients, beedi workers, and single women. Pensions at the rate of Rs.1,500/- per month are given to the differently abled persons and old age artists. Besides these, the Government has

specially considered the problem of people suffering with elephantiasis or filaria and decided to extend to them pension of Rs.1,000/- per month.

43. In the combined State, an amount of Rs.853 crore was being spent on distribution of pensions to 31 lakh people at a rate of Rs.200 per month, while our Government is spending Rs.5,300 crore per year for 41,78,291 people. This bears testimony to our Government's concern for the poor, helpless and destitute.

KalyanLakshmi/Shadi Mubaarak :

44. Kalyana Lakshmi scheme is being implemented satisfactorily under the supervision of Hon'ble Members and people's representatives. The poor parents grappling with problems of getting their girls married found a solution with this scheme.

45. Shri Kailash Satyarthi, Noble laureate and child rights activist commended the scheme during his recent visit to Karimnagar and opined that the scheme is helpful in eradicating child marriages. Initially started for the benefit of SCs, STs and

minorities, this was gradually extended to BCs, and economically poor belonging to upper castes. So far, 2,12,126 women under Kalyanalakshmi and 78,003 under Shadi mubaarak got the benefit. The Government has so far incurred an amount of Rs.1,625 crore under the scheme.

46. For the schemes of Kalyana Lakshmi/Shaaadi Mubaarak an amount of Rs.1,450 crore is proposed in the Budget of 2018-19.

WOMEN AND CHILD WELFARE

47. Women are agitated that though they constitute 50 per cent in the society, they are deprived of equality. Women are demanding 33 percent reservations in legislative bodies. The Assembly has passed a resolution supporting their legitimate demand. The Government is providing 33 percent reservations in all institutions within its jurisdiction. To ensure representation in market committees, reservations have been provided for women for the first time after the formation of Telangana. The credit of providing 33 percent reservations to women in Police Department goes to this Government. For effective implementation of

schemes intended for the welfare of women and children at field level, Government has appointed 16 women organisers with suitable honorarium.

Aarogya Lakshmi- Nutritious food :

48. In Telangana State there are 35,700 Anganwadi centres. In these centres, nutritious food is being supplied to pregnant, lactating women and small children below the age of 6 years. A scheme called “Aarogya Lakshmi” is being implemented with an intention of providing complete meal for the health of mother and child and for overall growth of infants.

49. Before formation of Telangana, mini-hot meal was being provided to children between the age group of 3 and 6 years only. Further in 81 ICDS project centres hot meal was being supplied during noon to pregnant and lactating women. In order to ensure sufficient food with nutritious value to the poor, our Government is providing nutritious full meal in all Anganwadi centres to pregnant and lactating women, and children every day.

50. Every month on the first day, a two and half kg pack containing milk powder, wheat floor, eggs for children, sugar, oil, redgram is being provided to the beneficiaries. Under this scheme 9,46,115 children between the age group of 7 months to 3 years, 5,03,360 children between the age group of 3 to 6 years and 3,66,860 pregnant and lactating women are getting benefits.

51. While the Government of India assistance for the Arogya Lakshmi scheme is at a rate of Rs.3.50 per women, the State Government is adding five and half times to the GOI assistance i.e., Rs.17.50 and incurring an amount aggregating to Rs.21/- per women. For this scheme an amount of Rs. 298 crore is proposed in this Budget.

52. The honorarium of Anganawadi workers and helpers has been enhanced in two phases. About 67,411 staff serving the poor women and children in the State got benefitted with this enhancement. The honorarium of Anganwadi workers was enhanced from Rs.4,200/- to Rs. 10,500/- and for helpers from Rs.2,200/- to Rs.6,000/- per month.

53. For Women and Child Welfare Department, an amount of Rs. 1,799 crore is proposed in this Budget.

SC AND ST DEVELOPMENT FUND

54. The Government has set two good traditions in spending funds for the progress of SCs and STs during the year 2017-18. A Special Development Fund has been created in proportion of the population of SCs and STs. An enactment has been made to carry forward unspent balances of funds allocated in a year to next year. No State Government in the country could enact such an ideal enactment to protect the interests of SCs/STs in the society. This credit goes to Telangana State alone. This year also Government is allocating funds to Special Development Fund. In 2018-19, Rs.16,453 crore is allocated to SC SDF and Rs. 9,693 crore to ST SDF.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes :

55. As per 2011 census, the SC population in Telangana State is 50,08,300 constituting 15.45 per cent of the State population. The Government is implementing several schemes for the education and economic development of SCs. About 55,576 students are

getting benefitted through 675 hostels. For 9th and 10th class students, special hostels are provided. In these special hostels, 17,373 students are studying. Post-matric scholarship is being given to all the eligible SC students till they pursue their education. With this, about 2.5 lakh students per annum are getting benefitted. After formation of the State, an amount of Rs.1459 crore scholarships have been disbursed so far.

56. Under Kalyana Lakshmi scheme, an amount of Rs.436.86 crore was spent benefitting 71,770 SC women. Out of 1,12,088 students studying in social welfare residential schools, 75,727 are girls. The Hon'ble Members are aware that these children from the poorest families are not only doing well in education but also in other activities. These students are getting admissions in prestigious institutions like IITs, NITs, Azim Premji University, Delhi University etc. It is a matter of pride to all of us that these students from social welfare residential schools have won several state and national level awards.

57. For the Scheduled Caste Development Department, an amount of Rs. 12,709 crore is proposed.

Financial assistance for Self Employment Scheme :

58. There has been a substantial increase in the subsidy component in economic support schemes implemented for providing self-employment to SC youth. While there was a maximum limit of Rs.1.00 lakh in the combined State, our Government has enhanced it to Rs.5 lakhs.

Distribution of 3 acres Land to Dalits

59. The Government is continuing the programme of distribution of 3 acres land to SCs uninterruptedly. Based on the availability, land is being purchased for distribution to SCs. After formation of Telangana, in just 45 months, 12,745 acres of land was distributed to 4,939 SCs under the scheme. For this scheme an amount of Rs. 1,469 crore is proposed.

T - PRIDE:

60. To promote, enthusiastic SC, ST entrepreneurs, the Government is implementing a new programme called Telangana

State Programme for Rapid Incubation of Dalit Entrepreneurs (T - PRIDE). Incentives are being provided to those who set up new industries and also for expanding the existing industries. Power subsidy at a rate of Rs.1.50 per unit is being provided to the units being set up by SCs, STs. Interest subvention enabling interest payment at 4 per cent per annum for the loans taken to establish small scale industries and food processing units is being provided. Under the investment scheme, 35 per cent of total investment as subsidy is being provided to SCs, STs for establishing industrial units and for SC, ST women entrepreneurs the subsidy is 45 per cent. The Government has decided to impart necessary training to SC, ST engineering graduates and to entrust them contracts of Government development activities.

Welfare of Scheduled Tribes

61. As per 2011 census, the ST population in Telangana State is 32.87 lakhs. Out of 32 Scheduled Tribes in the state, 4 tribes are considered as PVTG. Our Government is implementing several development schemes for the welfare of scheduled tribes.

62. The Government has given priority for the education of children of Scheduled tribes. For this 319 Ashrama schools, 149 hostels, 1432 girijan primary schools, 163 post matric hostels, 85 gurukulams, 29 mini gurukulams, 33 gurukula junior colleges and 22 gurukula degree colleges are functioning. In these institutions 2,06,428 students are being imparted quality education.

63. Under economic support scheme, 20,000 beneficiaries would be provided with assistance in the ensuing financial year. Under land development scheme 5,000 ST beneficiaries would be provided with the irrigation facility. BT roads are being proposed in 354 villages in ITDA areas of the State and 619 ST hamlets, in plain areas. Jangubai fair, Nagoba Fair, Sant Sevalal birth day celebrations etc., which are considered as symbols of tribal culture are being celebrated in a glorious manner.

For Tribal Welfare department, an amount of Rs. 8,063 crore is proposed in the Budget.

Thandas-Gram Panchayats:

64. Since thandas are considered as wards in villages, they are subjected to discrimination in the provision of infrastructure facilities. There has been a long standing demand for recognising adivasi hamlets, tribal thandas as Gram Panchayats. Fulfilling their long standing demand, the Government is going to recognise thandas and adivasi hamlets as Gram Panchayats.

BACKWARD CLASS WELFARE

65. The Government is initiating various measures for the overall development of backward classes who constitute 52 per cent of the population. In 450 pre-matric hostels, 250 college hostels in the State, 73,301 students are deriving benefits. Under post-matric scholarship scheme 7,58,093 students are being paid tuition fees and maintenance fees. Under this programme 88,708 students of economically backward sections are also getting benefitted. In 192 residential schools, 19 residential colleges and one women degree college being run under the aegis of Mahatma Jyothibha Pule Telangana Backward Classes

Residential School Society, 40,075 students are being provided with excellent education. Out of these institutions, 119 residential schools were started on 12th June 2017, thus creating history.

66. The Government has decided to provide financial support by distributing necessary tools to all those professional communities which are serving the society like nayee brahmins, washermen, medhari, vaddara, viswakarma, gouds and others. Government has also formulated specific programmes for them.

67. Government has established an MBC Corporation with an investment of Rs. 1,000 crore for the welfare of most backward communities who do not even have recognition in the society. Government is formulating policies for the development of MBCs and the action plan will be implemented shortly. .

68. An amount of Rs. 200 crore for the federations of washermen and Rs.250 crore for nayee Brahmins is proposed in the Budget. An amount of Rs. 5,920 crore is provided in the budget for the welfare of Backward Classes.

MINORITIES WELFARE

69. In Telangana minorities are also reeling under poverty like SCs and STs. Due to this, the Government has decided to extend all the schemes meant for the welfare of SCs and STs to the minorities also for their overall development. Minorities Development Corporation has been strengthened. Allocations to minorities welfare are being enhanced year after year. Laying special focus on the education of minorities, the Government has set up 206 Residential educational institutions for minorities in the last 4 years. In these institutions 47,818 students are being imparted qualitative education. We were questioned as to where from the government would get students when such large number of institutions are opened in one academic year. But today there is a lot of demand for admissions into these institutions. This would be an example to demonstrate that any programme which is taken up to meet aspirations of the people in a planned manner would get enthusiastic public applause. An amount of Rs.735 crore is proposed for these minority residential schools.

70. 4,300 Sq.yards of land along with Rs.20 crore has been allotted for constructing a building to Anis Ul Gurba which takes care of the Muslim orphans.

71. The subsidy under self-employment schemes for minority youth has been enhanced from 50% to 80%. Every year, during Ramzan and Christmas festivals new clothes to about 2 lakh people are distributed. By hosting dinners in the places of worship during their festivals, the Government is sharing in their joy. The Government is paying honorarium at a rate of Rs.1500/- per month to Imams and Mouzans working in 5000 Mosques which is not the practice anywhere in the country. 8934 Imams and Mouzans throughout the state are being benefited. The Government has allotted 10 acres of land at Kokapet for construction of Hyderabad Islamic Centre cum Conventional Hall with international standards. Government has initiated steps for preserving Urdu language. Government is appointing Urdu Teachers in Government educational institutions.

72. An amount of Rs.1200 crore was provided in previous year for the welfare of minorities. In this year the same has been

enhanced substantially and an amount of Rs.2,000 crore is proposed.

Welfare of Other Communities:

73. Though Brahmins command respect in the society, financial backwardness is worrying them. For their welfare, Government has already established a separate corporation and is allocating Rs.100 crore each year. In the current year's Budget also, an allocation of Rs.100 crore is proposed.

74. Reddy hostel has played a vital role in Telangana's social renaissance. The Centenary celebrations of the hostel established with an initiative of renowned personality, Kotwal Raja Bahadur Venkatram Reddy have been completed recently with pomp and gaiety. As announced during those celebrations, Government allotted fifteen acres of land for construction of Reddy Hostel Building Complex at Budwel, and an amount of Rs.10.00 crore was sanctioned by Hon'ble Chief Minister for construction of hostel complex.

75. Government has taken a policy decision to allocate land in Hyderabad for construction of buildings for each of the communities. Government intends that these buildings serve as welfare centres for respective communities.

76. Government is showing keen interest for the welfare of all communities. Unparalleled in the country, a special fund for the welfare of the journalists has been established. Government has already provided Rs.130 crore to this fund. This fund, is being utilised for sanctioning an ex-gratia of Rs.1.00 lakh with a monthly livelihood assistance to the bereaved family of journalists who die in harness. For the welfare of journalists, in 2018-19 Budget, an amount of Rs. 75 crore is proposed. Telangana Government is unique in the country to establish a special fund with a corpus of Rs.100 crore for the welfare of advocates.

DOUBLE BED ROOM HOUSES

77. Construction of Double bed room houses started with the good intention that even poor people should live in houses with

all facilities and dignity, has picked up pace. The scheme of constructing double bed room houses without charging even a rupee from the poor where the entire burden of expenditure is being borne by the Government is implemented only in Telangana, and nowhere else in the country. Throughout the State 2,72,763 two bedroom houses have been sanctioned. 9,522 houses have been completed and 1,68,981 houses are in progress. For construction of double bed room houses, an amount of Rs. 2,643 crore has been allocated in 2018-19 Budget. To supplement the budget allocation, funds are being provided through off budget borrowings from the financial institutions and banks.

HEALTH

78. After formation of Telangana, due to implementation of a comprehensive plan by our government, public health system has improved significantly. Measures have been taken to improve the facilities and enhance the outreach of public health system. People lost faith in the government hospitals as the previous

Governments have neglected them. This Government is trying to regain the confidence of the people in Government health care system. Funds are being released directly to all the Government hospitals right from primary health centres to super speciality hospitals. Now the change is palpable. Based on the bed strength, funds are allocated and are released directly to hospitals. Allocations for purchase of medicines/drugs in hospitals have been doubled. Old cots, bed sheets and broken saline stands have been replaced with new ones.

79. The Government has established 34 Dialysis centres in Government hospitals throughout the State and extending dialysis facility to the patients free of cost. Earlier, there were no ICU centres in Government hospitals to provide health care to critically ill patients. Even oxygen facility was not available in many hospitals. But now this scenario has changed. Our Government has established ICUs in 22 government hospitals in the State. Twelve cancer diagnostic centres established in the State are providing services to lakhs of people. These centres are

helpful in early detection of the cancer in patients and provide necessary treatment to save the lives of patients.

80. Our Government started emergency motor cycle service to extend immediate medical relief to the needy people in Hyderabad. Fifty vaccination vehicles have been introduced in the city to vaccinate poor children. Two wheeler scootys at a subsidy of Rs.10,000/- to Rs.25,000/- are provided to ANMs throughout the State under the Project Wings Scheme for ANMs.

81. Prevention is better than cure. As per this dictum, the Government is conducting free medical tests to all people for prevention of diseases. Similarly, eye tests would be conducted and spectacles will be given free of cost.

82. New medical colleges are being established to develop medical education in the state. Medical colleges have already been sanctioned at Mahaboobnagar, Siddipet and Nizamabad. Medical colleges at Suryapet, and Nalgonda are being established.

Ammavodi Scheme :

83. Pregnant women need special attention, additional care and facilities. However, due to poverty these are not available to many women. In view of the problems faced by pregnant women, Government is implementing a scheme called Ammavodi. This scheme has become a role model for many States in the country. Government is providing free transport facility through a special vehicle, to pregnant women to take them to hospital for delivery and also to drop them back at their residence safely after delivery. This is a boon for pregnant women residing in remote areas. Just by dialling 102, this specially equipped vehicle would reach the residence of pregnant women and transport back the mother and child safely. Already 250 vehicles for this scheme are being utilised for the service of pregnant women. For the scheme which is being implemented for the welfare of pregnant women, Government has proposed Rs. 561 crore in 2018-19 Budget.

KCR kits for Pregnant Women :

84. It is a tragedy to have maternal deaths during delivery even today in the country. The main reason that can be attributed is that pregnant women instead of approaching hospitals for delivery still adopt the traditional methods of delivery. On the other hand the attitude of private doctors, going for unnecessary caesarean operations is also a concern. To control the twin menace, Telangana Government has introduced an innovative scheme. Government is distributing KCR kits to the women who come to Government hospitals for delivery. Many pregnant women are compelled to work during pregnancy for their living. Lack of rest during pregnancy is not only affecting the health of mother but also endangers the foetus. Government has decided to compensate the loss of wages to women during pregnancy. From the confirmation of pregnancy till the infant attains 3 months of age, Government is providing financial assistance of Rs.12,000/- in three instalments at a rate of Rs.4,000/- per instalment. An additional assistance of Rs.1,000/- is being provided for delivering a girl child. After delivery, the KCR kits containing

items of utility for the mother and child are being distributed. The kit includes baby soap, baby oil, baby powder, mosquito net, napkins and diapers etc. This scheme was launched in June, 2017 through out the State and so far 8,26,143 pregnant women have registered their names in the Government hospitals and 1,78,048 kits have been distributed. Due to implementation of this innovative scheme, the rate of deliveries in Government hospitals have increased substantially. When compared with the past, the increase of deliveries in government hospitals is 51%. The infant mortality rate has also come down from 39 to 31 for every 1,000 deliveries. This scheme has won many awards from national and international organisations and received great applause from all over the country.

85. In 2018-19 Budget, Rs. 7,375 crore has been allocated to Medical and Health sector.

EDUCATION SECTOR

86. Over all development of the society is possible only with the development of education sector which ensures better future to

children. There are 41,337 schools in which education is being imparted to 58,66,786 pupils. Majority of the children in Government educational institutions belong to SC, ST, BC and minority categories. Providing quality education to these children is the main duty of the Government.

87. After formation of Telangana, 8,792 teachers are being recruited through Public Service Commission. By next academic year these teachers will be in the schools.

88. Under Sarva Sikshya Abhiyan, 44,588 works have been taken up in last three years for providing infrastructure in schools, out of which 38,182 works have been completed. In our State 391 Kasturbha Gandhi girls schools are imparting education to 72,824 girls. To improve the facilities in these Kasturbha Gandhi girls schools, an amount of Rs.92.30 crore has been spent so far. The salaries of Special Officers, CRTs, Accountants and other employees have been increased substantially.

89. In our State, there are 194 model schools. An amount of Rs.78 crore has been spent for construction of compound walls to

these schools. Enrolment in these model schools is on the rise year after year. Our Government is providing fine rice under mid-day meal scheme and students are also being provided 3 eggs or bananas in a week. After formation of Telangana, the above items are being provided to 25.48 lakh children additionally.

90. In 2018-19 Budget an amount of Rs.10,830 crore is proposed for School Education.

Higher Education:

91. To improve the facilities in 404 Government Junior Colleges, the Government has incurred Rs.259.00 crore. Government has increased remuneration to the contract lecturers who are working in these colleges from Rs.18,000/- to Rs.27,000/- and again from Rs.27,000/- to Rs.37,100/-.

92. In Technical Education department 11 new polytechnic colleges have been established with an allocation of Rs.95.00 crore.

93. In our State 131 Government degree colleges are functioning in which 10,634 students are studying. To improve infrastructure

facilities in these colleges, works at a cost of Rs. 247 crore are being undertaken.

94. In 2018-19 budget an amount of Rs. 2,448 crore is proposed for Higher Education.

Residential Educational Institutions:

95. To improve the education sector the Government has embarked upon an important scheme intended to provide free education from KG to PG. In these 45 months of administration, a first step in the direction of implementation of this policy was laid. Government is promoting residential education system with a noble intention that students of weaker sections should develop educationally. Many residential schools and colleges have been established in the state. After formation of Telangana 104 residential schools for SCs, 53 for STs, 192 for minorities, 142 for BCs - in all 491 residential schools have been established. In these residential schools which are meant for SC, ST, BC and Minority communities, a portion of seats have been allotted to poor students from upper castes.

96. The Government intends that girls should march ahead in education. Considering the plight of the girls belonging to tribals and dalits when they migrate to urban areas from remote villages for education, the Government has established women residential degree colleges. In the first phase, 30 women residential degree colleges for SCs, 22 for STs and 1 for BCs have started functioning.

97. As of date, 2,70,135 students are studying in residential schools, and 16,160 students in women residential degree colleges. The Government is spending more than one lakh per annum on each of the student studying in these residential institutions. It is proposed to allocate Rs.1,221 crore for SC residential schools, Rs. 401 crore for ST residential schools, Rs. 296 crore for BC residential schools, Rs. 735 crore for minority residential schools, Rs. 170 crore for general residential schools and in all Rs. 2,823 crore towards residential schools.

Overseas Scholarships:

98. No one should lose the opportunity of studying abroad due to poverty. It is for this reason the Government is providing overseas scholarships in a big way. In the combined State, these scholarships were limited to SCs and STs at Rs.10 lakhs. This was due to short sightedness of previous Governments. Now, Telangana Government is giving scholarships at Rs.20 lakhs named after great personalities like Ambedkar and Jyothi Rao Phule. Further the scheme has been extended to BC and EBC students along with SCs and STs. Many students from weaker sections are able to pursue higher education overseas due to this scheme.

Fine Rice to Students:

99. Children in pursuit of education require healthy food. In the past, in Government hostels, residential schools, and in mid-day meals scheme, coarse rice of poor quality was being supplied. Government has stopped this inhuman practise. The students of all the Government educational institutions are fed with

qualitative fine rice, which resulted in a substantial increase in students' attendance.

MISSION BHAGIRATHA

100. To meet the drinking water needs of all the people in the State the Government is implementing Mission Bhagiratha scheme. Under this scheme filtered tapped water is being supplied. By end of this month, river water would reach upto village point. To supply this water to every household, intra village pipeline works and fitting of taps are in progress. Mission Bhagiratha has received applause as one of the enormous/mammoth drinking water schemes in the country. People will be totally relieved from diseases like fluorosis and other water borne diseases.

101. From the Krishna and the Godavari rivers, 59.94 TMC of filtered water would be supplied to every household in Telangana. The project is divided into 26 segments. Every household in the rural and urban areas would be supplied water through 67 intake wells, 153 water filter plants, 1,69,705 Km of pipelines and 35,514 overhead reservoirs.

102. The benefits of Mission Bhagiratha have already reached households in 5,752 rural hamlets, 2,900 villages and 15 towns. The results of the efforts which would remain for ever in the history of the nation are visible. To quench the thirst of Telangana people, this project is being completed within 4 years from its conception and Government is proud of it. I thank all those persons who toiled day and night in providing drinking water through this project before schedule.

103. For Mission Bhagiratha scheme, an amount of Rs. 1,801 crore is proposed. Along with the budgetary allocations, funds are also being provided from financial institutions.

HARITHAHARAM TO TELANGANA

104. To enhance the green cover in the State, Government has launched a massive plantation programme in the name of “Telangana ku Harithaharam”. As against the target of plantation of 230 crore plants, 81 crore plants have already been planted. In 2018-19 arrangement are made for planting another 40 crore plants. 4,000 nurseries have been established. Harithaharam programme is being implemented successfully with people’s

participation. An amount of Rs.1166 crore has been spent on the scheme.

ROADS

Construction of Roads:

105. Roads are hallmark of a progressive society. Connecting different places, the roads provide new direction to development. Road connectivity enhances pace of growth. The development in the transport sector has brought in momentum in agriculture, industry, trade and commerce.

R & B and Panchayat Raj Roads:

106. The Government has achieved good progress in the development and expansion of R&B and Panchayat roads. After formation of Telangana 24,950 Km roads in R&B jurisdiction and 69,500 KM roads in Panchayat jurisdiction are being developed. Government has taken a policy decision to connect all Mandals and district headquarters with double lane roads. For this purpose, 1875 Km of roads are widened. Construction of 511 bridges in R&B jurisdiction is being taken up. In Panchayat Raj

jurisdiction, 6617 Km kachcha roads are being developed as B.T. roads and 13,581 Km B.T roads are being repaired.

107. After formation of Telangana, in the past 4 years, 4000 Km of B.T. and cement roads in rural areas have been completed. For construction of rural roads under CRR, an amount of Rs. 1,080 crore is proposed. Similarly for re-laying of the rural roads, B.T roads 12,657 Km works have been taken up under MRR which was never the case in the past. Out of this, 11,322 Km at a cost of Rs.1,250 crore have been completed.

108. In this Budget an amount of Rs. 5,575 crore is proposed for T R & B Dept. and an amount of Rs. 15,563 crore is proposed for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COLLECTORATES AND POLICE OFFICES

109. Large scale administrative reforms were introduced for convenience of administration. For establishing offices in the newly created districts an amount of Rs.600 crore were allocated in the previous year. In this Budget, an amount of Rs. 500 crore

is proposed. Integrated district offices in 26 districts, police offices in 13 districts are under construction. In every assembly constituency, offices for MLAs are being constructed. Already construction of offices at 32 places have been completed and at other places, the construction is going on.

ENERGY

110. In the power sector, Telangana Government has achieved wonders in a short time. First time in the history of Telangana, 24 hours qualitative power is being supplied to all sectors including agriculture. People have totally forgotten power cuts. In the past, availability of power was “news”, now in our administration, people are saying that non-availability of power is “news”.

111. We are able to supply of power even when the gross demand has exceeded 10,000 MW. Supplying power without power cuts even for blink of an eye is the grand achievement of this Government. This tremendous success was possible because of determined efforts of Hon’ble Chief Minister’s commitment and continuous efforts of the officers and workers in the energy sector.

112. The tremendous progress achieved in power supply is propelling growth of the State. Agricultural production increased substantially. Industries are able to work three shifts in a day, achieving higher production coming out from the misery of power cuts. Small time artisans and professionals are able to earn sustained income. In the absence of power cuts, people are leading a comfortable life and students are able to prepare for the examinations without worrying.

113. Before formation of Telangana, only 31 MW of solar energy was available, but now we have achieved the first place in the country with 3283 MW of solar power production.

114. In 2014, we had only 7,778 MW of contracted capacity. To make Telangana a power surplus State, the Government is striving continuously to achieve a contracted capacity of 28,275 MW. Already 15,344 MW power was brought into usage. By this month end, through KTPS 7th phase, another 800 MW of power will become available. I am glad to announce that by this year end, the first phase of Bhadradri power plant with a capacity of 1080 MW will be completed.

115. An amount of Rs. 5,650 crore is proposed for Power Sector.

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

116. Telangana is famous for handlooms with Ikkat designed Pochampalli clothes having international repute. Further, different varieties of handloom products of Narayanpet, Gadwal, Siddipet, Sircilla and other places are also very popular. Technological changes, marketing problems, negligence of rulers have pushed the handloom industry into deep crises. Some of the handloom workers have succumbed to starvation deaths and even committed suicides. To provide succour to handloom workers and to end the crisis in this sector, the Government has taken up several initiatives.

117. Government has waived loans of handloom weavers upto Rs.1.00 lakh and also came to the rescue of power loom sector by implementing various measures. Government is providing inputs like yarn, chemicals, etc., at 50% subsidy and power is also supplied at subsidy. These measures have drastically reduced the production cost in power looms. Government has taken lead in

convincing private sector managements to pay a remunerative wages of Rs.15,000/- to Rs.20,000/- per month to weavers.

118. Government itself is procuring the cloth required for different departments and schemes from the handloom and power loom weavers to avoid their marketing problems.

Full Scale Subsidy for Modernization of Power looms:

119. Government has decided to provide full-scale subsidy for modernisation of power looms. Government is committed to reviving the ailing power loom industry. The funds required for the modernisation of power looms are being provided from the allocations made in the Budget for handloom sector. It was decided to provide relief in saturation mode to all the workers without any limits.

Textile Park :

120. Hon'ble Chief Minister has laid the foundation stone for Kakatiya Mega Textile Park last October to make Warangal as 'Textile City'. On the same day, Government has entered into agreements with 22 firms with an investment of Rs.3,440 crore. The textile park is being developed in an area of 1190 acres at a

cost of Rs.1075 crore. It is expected to attract investments worth nearly Rs.9,000 crore over next five years. The Kakatiya Mega Textile Park would be the biggest Textile Park in the country with an employment potential of 60,000 to 80,000. It would house different type of manufacturing and ancillary units right from making the yarn to readymade cloths. For Handloom and Textiles, an amount of Rs. 1,200 crore is proposed in the Budget 2018-19.

Government initiatives for Telangana Industrial development:

121. The TS i-PASS legislation brought by the Government for the industrial development of the State is yielding good results.

122. Large scale investments are pouring into the State. Permissions have been granted to 6206 industries so far. Besides attracting huge investments of about Rs. 1.18 lakh crore, employment opportunities have been created to about 4.47 lakh people. Out of the units permitted, 3703 units have already commenced operations. Telangana is ranked no.1 in the country in ease of doing business.

123. Telangana has made special efforts to develop pharma sector in the State. Government is establishing a medical devices park at Sultanpur in Sangareddy district in 250 acres. This would not only meet the domestic requirement of medical devices but also enhance employment opportunities in the State.

124. Arrangements are also being made for establishing eco-pharma city with world class infrastructure in an area of 19,331 acres at Muchharla in Ranga Reddy district which would create 4 lakh jobs. Land has been allotted for establishing mega food park at Buggapadu in Khammam district.

125. The Government has successfully conducted Global Entrepreneurship Summit recently at Hyderabad. The efforts of the Government in organising Summit received international acclaim. With this Summit, the reputation of the Hyderabad city was enhanced internationally.

126. An amount of Rs. 1,286 crore is proposed for Industries and Commerce Department in this Budget.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

127. Telangana is recognised as one of the leading information technology hubs globally. With the new IT policy brought by the Government, many leading world class organisations have extended their operations to Hyderabad. Hyderabad is a home for leading software companies like Google, Delloitte, Facebook, Cognizant, Oracle, Apple, Adobe. The innovative T HUB established by Telangana Government could inspire about 200 Start-ups.

128. As announced in the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017, the Government has inaugurated WE-HUB on 8th March on the occasion of International Women's day.

129. WE-HUB promotes innovations by women entrepreneurs. To encourage women entrepreneurs, the Government would procure 25 per cent of the innovative products of WE-HUB. WE-HUB would provide necessary support in bringing out the hidden creative skills in women. An amount of Rs.15 crore has been provided as an initial investment to WE-HUB meant for women empowerment.

130. The State has surpassed the national average in export of IT products consecutively for the last three years. While the national average growth rate was 10%, Telangana State could achieve a growth rate of 13.85%. The Government has decided to expand IT activities to Tier 2 cities along with Hyderabad. The Government is striving hard to develop Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam as IT hubs. In addition to allotting 45 acres of land for developing an IT SEZ in Warangal town to encourage establishment of Start-ups, Government has started constructing buildings 15,000 sq. ft.

131. The Government is encouraging establishment of software companies, BPOs in district centres and in rural areas. As part of this some software companies have already commenced their operations in Jangaon, Karimnagar and Khammam.

132. In this Budget an amount of Rs. 289 crore is proposed for IT development.

MEASURES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES

133. The Government is making special efforts to provide basic infrastructure facilities in Hyderabad. A scheme for finding a permanent solution to the traffic problem has been evolved. Taking into account the future requirements for the next 20 to 40 years and to avoid recurrence of problems, the Hon'ble CM has taken measures to improve the road network by constructing express ways on four sides of Hyderabad, highways, and sky ways.

134. The Metro rail which is a highlight of the Hyderabad city, was recently inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi between Nagole-Miyapur. In few months, the construction of other corridors would be completed.

135. After Hyderabad, Warangal is a big city in the State. To provide infrastructure facilities in this city, an amount of Rs. 300 crore is being provided every year. In this Budget also, an amount of Rs. 300 crore is proposed. For taking up development works in other corporations in Telangana, an amount of Rs. 400 crore to

each municipal corporation is proposed. In this Budget an amount of Rs. 7,251 crore is proposed for MA & UD Department.

CULTURE

136. The soul of a place is reflected in its culture. The Government has taken up several programmes to spread the greatness of Telangana culture globally. The Government is celebrating the Bonalu and Bathukamma festivals officially as State festivals with pomp and gaiety every year. Awards named after renowned and great personalities of Telangana are being given. The Government has established recently a Sahitya Academy for promoting literature. The recently concluded World Telugu Conference organised by the Sahitya Academy in Hyderabad has spread the glory of Telangana culture worldwide. Under the aegis of Telangana Culture Department, cultural programmes relating to music, literature, arts, etc., are being organised regularly throughout the state including at the Ravindrabharathi in Hyderabad. These programmes are not only rejuvenating the Telangana culture but also enthusing the music and literature lovers.

137. An amount of Rs. 58 crore is proposed for promotion of culture in this Budget.

**DEVELOPMENT OF TEMPLES – EMPLOYEES
WELFARE**

138. The important development and reconstruction activities of the temple and surrounding areas taken up by the Yadagirigutta Temple Development Authority are expected to be completed this year. Taking into account the pace of works, an amount of Rs.250 crore is proposed. Similarly an amount of Rs.100 crore is proposed for Vemulavada Temple Area Development Authority. On the same lines, it is proposed to develop temples and surrounding areas at Bhadrachalam, Basara and Dharmapuri. An amount of Rs.100 crore, Rs. 50 crore and Rs.50 crore respectively, has been proposed.

139. Keeping in view the large representations received for the construction, renovation of temples with inadequate resources, an amount of Rs. 50 crore is allocated to Common Good Fund established under Endowments Act.

140. The decision to issue orders for the implementation of 2015 PRC recommendations to the Archakas and other staff members working in temples based on the initiative of Hon'ble Chief minister was welcomed by everyone. To implement this, an amount of Rs.72 crore is proposed towards the Government contribution.

LAW AND ORDER - WELFARE OF POLICE

141. For decades, Telangana society suffered disturbances of one kind or another adversely affecting law and order. After formation of Telangana, for the first time, peace and tranquillity is prevailing. While the enhanced confidence of the people about their bright future can be attributed as a reason for this, the effective functioning of the law and order machinery in controlling crime is equally an important reason. After formation of Telangana, the Government has completely modernised the Police Department and strengthened the Department with adequate staff, enough vehicles and modern equipment. Many reforms were implemented in the Police Department. Seven Police Commissionerates were established to bring police

services closer to people. Further 27 new police sub-divisions, 29 circles, 103 police stations have been established.

142. Government responded to the plight of the homeguards. At the time of formation of Telangana, the homeguards were being paid Rs.9,000 per month only. Telangana Government has enhanced their remuneration to Rs.20,000 per month. In recognition of the services of the Traffic Police, the Government has granted 30% special allowance on their basic pay. The Government has granted age relaxation for police recruitment. Long pending promotions to police officers were given. An amount of Rs. 5,790 crore for Home department is proposed in the Budget.

EMPLOYEES WELFARE

143. The Government is committed to the welfare of the employees. Telangana has been a role model in enhancing PRC salaries to Government servants. Similarly the credit of enhancing the wages of 2,27,782 of different category of workers - homeguards, contract, outsourcing, angangwadi employees, ANMs and AASHA workers, vidya volunteers, VRAs, part-time

and full-time contingent employees, SERP employees, with an annual outlay of Rs. 1023.43 crore goes to our Government. Cashless treatment facility in corporate hospitals to Government employees and journalists is made available. Out-patient services are being provided to employees through Wellness centres.

EMPLOYEES RECRUITMENT

144. After formation of Telangana, overcoming the bifurcation problems, court cases and other issues, the Government has identified 1,10,012 direct recruitment vacancies so far. Out of this, orders were issued for filling 83,048 vacancies. Recruitment process has been completed for 27,588 employees. Arrangements are being made for hastening the filling of balance vacancies.

Accounts 2016-17:

145. As per the Finance Accounts of the State Government certified by the Accountant General, the total expenditure in 2016-17 is 1,33,823 crore. The revenue surplus is Rs.1,386 crore.

Revised Estimates 2017-18:

146. As per the Revised Estimates, the total expenditure in 2017-18 is estimated at Rs.1,42,506 crore. Of this, revenue expenditure

is Rs. 1,06,603 crore while capital expenditure is Rs. 25,447 crore. The estimated revised expenditure constitutes 95 percentage of budget estimates.

Due to initial adverse consequences of implementing GST, the growth of revenue over previous financial year is marginally lower.

Budget Estimates 2018-19:

147. In the Budget Estimates for 2018-19, State's own revenue receipts are proposed at Rs. 73,751.88 crore. When compared with the RE 2017-18, this is higher by 20 percent. Transfers from the Centre as per BE 2017-18 is Rs. 26,857.67 crore, while in BE 2018-19 these are estimated at Rs. 29,041.88 crore. This increase is marginal.

The estimated total expenditure in 2018-19 is Rs. 1,74,453.84 crore. Of this, revenue expenditure is Rs. 1,25,454.70 crore and capital expenditure is Rs. 33,369.10 crore. The capital expenditure is 19 percentage of total expenditure. This is substantially higher when compared to other States.

148. The capital expenditure incurred in the combined State during 2013-14 is Rs.15,280 crore only. The Honourable Members are requested to note that the capital expenditure has increased substantially in Telangana.

149. The Corporations implementing Government programmes are accessing funds through off-budget borrowings. Therefore, the total expenditure would be much higher than that proposed in the Budget.

In 2018-19 the estimated revenue surplus is Rs. 5,520.41 crore and fiscal deficit is Rs. 29,077.07 crore. The fiscal deficit is 3.45 percent of GSDP.

Conclusion:

150. The new State of Telangana, formed amidst adverse conditions, uncertainties, doubts and challenges, rose to a level of becoming a role model for the entire country in many aspects. Many States are appreciating that the path taken by Telangana in promoting welfare of people, providing infrastructure facilities, implementing administrative reforms is worthy of emulation. The success achieved so far by the Government has instilled

confidence about the prospects of a bright future in Telangana society. With this faith as basis and with the soul aim of ushering Bangaru Telangana, this Budget has been formulated for the comprehensive development of the people of the State. The Budget is commended for the approval of the House.

//Jai Hind//

// Jai Telangana//