

## Address of His Excellency the Governor of Orissa Shri Rameshwar Thakur to the Orissa Legislative Assembly on February 28, 2005

Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 4th Session of the 13th Orissa Legislative Assembly. Through you I convey my greetings and best wishes to the people of the State.

2. We are deeply shocked by the large scale devastation caused by Tsunami on the morning of 26th December, 2004 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and southern coast of the country as well as other countries of Asia. Thousands of people lost their lives; hundreds of children lost their parents; and many thousands lost their homes and livelihood. We in Orissa, fresh from memory of devastation caused by a Super Cyclone, are only too aware of what it means to be caught amidst a natural disaster of this magnitude. The House has deeply mourned huge loss of human lives in the tragedy. My Government has provided Rs.2.5 crore financial assistance and despatched 191.85 MT relief materials to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which suffered huge loss of life and property in Tsunami disaster. Government employees, non-Government organisations and general public continue to make contributions to Chief Minister's Relief Fund as a mark of their solidarity and support to the affected families in different States. These contributions are being sent by my Government to the Andaman & Nicobar Island Administration for rehabilitation of the families and restoration of social infrastructure devastated by the disaster. Let us together make our best contribution to the rehabilitation and rebuilding efforts of the nation.

3. The House has already expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of P. V. Narasimha Rao, Ex-Prime Minister of India, Nilamani Routray, Ex-Chief Minister, Laxmi Prasad Mishra, Ex-Minister, Usha Rani Panda, Ex-Minister of State, Bhaiga Sethi, Ranjit Kumar Pradhan, Gananath Pradhan, Chittaranjan Kar, Chaitanya Pradhan, Raj Kishore Samantaray and Ananta Charan Tripathy, former members of the House. I would request you to join me in paying homage to Shankarsan Naik, sitting member of the House and Government Deputy Chief Whip and Sribatschha Naik, former member who are no more with us. The House conveys our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families and will always remember their selfless service.

It is also in the fitness of things that we remember the supreme sacrifice made by the brave Jawans of the Indian Armed Forces, particularly those belonging to our State namely, Pitabas Sahoo and Gorachand Singh. We salute them for their exemplary and selfless service for the security of our nation.

4. Orissa is vulnerable to various disasters, both natural and manmade. The recorded history of the State is strewn with incidents of devastating floods, killer cyclones and severe droughts, which retard development and neutralise a large part of the development gains made by the State. A part of the State also comes under moderate earthquake risk zone. The coastal areas of the State are also highly vulnerable

to Tsunami. My Government has appropriately felt that a radically different approach is necessary to confront and manage disasters. The necessity to shift focus from 'Relief, Restoration and Rehabilitation' to 'Planning, Prevention and Preparedness' has gathered paramount importance. Accordingly, my Government has formulated a Disaster Management Policy for the State to deal with future natural calamities effectively with a long term strategy. The focus of the Disaster Management Policy will be on total risk management and vulnerability reduction. My Government is contemplating to bring about a new legislation in this regard in order to provide legal sanction to the policy.

5. Hon'ble members of this august House are aware of the magnitude of the financial problems confronting the State. My Government has been serious in dealing with these difficulties through a number of revenue generation and expenditure compression measures taken since 1999-2000. As a result of these measures the deteriorating trend of the State finances has been arrested and there has been significant improvement in the fiscal health of the State. This can be seen from the improvement in some of the important fiscal indicators. Revenue Deficit has decreased from Rs. 2574.19 crore in the year 1999-2000 to Rs.1420.92 crore in the year 2003-2004. As a percentage of GSDP it has decreased from 6.7% in 1999-2000 to 2.8% in the year 2003-2004. Similarly the ratio of Revenue Deficit to Revenue Receipt was 43.7% in 1999-2000, this has been reduced to 15.1% in 2003-2004. The aim of the State Government is to achieve zero deficit by 2009-2010.

On the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, fiscal incentive grant to the extent of Rs. 263.73 crore has been received by the State Government from the Central Government for improvement of the ratio of Revenue Deficit to Revenue Receipt by more than 5 % per annum. In the year 2004-2005 it is also expected that there would be further reduction in Revenue Deficit.

With the objective of generating revenue surplus for investment in physical infrastructure and human capital, a Medium Term Fiscal Plan has been drawn-up and laid in the Assembly in August, 2004. Efforts have been made by the Government to curtail unproductive expenditure and devote more resources for social sectors for achievement of Millennium Development Goals as well as enhancement of Physical Capital. The State Government have decided to introduce Value Added Tax from 1st April, 2005 which will bring in a simple and transparent Tax Structure, improve tax compliance and augment revenue growth. This is in line with the general consensus in the country for financial reforms.

Debt burden of the State Government is unsustainable. There is an urgent need to bring it to a sustainable level by reducing the annual borrowing. Assistance of the Central Government is also required in restructuring the debt stock by writing off high cost debts and rescheduling the repayment. Unless such assistance is available, the fiscal correction measures undertaken by the State Government will not yield the expected result of creating fiscal space for developmental works.

Government of India have started linking funds flow from the Centre with fiscal reforms measures taken by states. In such an environment, it is necessary to further strengthen and institutionalize the gains which has been achieved through fiscal consolidation.

6. The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) has already been finalised with an overall plan outlay of Rs. 19000 crore. An investment of the order of Rs. 4910.69 crore has been made under State Plan for the first two years which accounts for 25.85% of the projected outlay for the Tenth Plan.

My Government has modified the plan size for 2004-2005 to Rs. 2500 crore against an estimate of Rs. 2364.57 crore communicated by the Planning Commission. The State Government has also formulated

the Annual Plan for 2005-2006 and has fixed the plan size at Rs. 3000 crore out of which Rs. 2264.51 crore relates to Government Sector and the balance amount of Rs.735.49 crore to Public Sector Undertakings.

My Government attaches high priority in organising Pani Panchayats amongst users of water in irrigation projects; organizing women in Self Help Groups and providing them with Credit linkage under the Mission Shakti Programme; Public Sector Reforms and Power Sector Reforms.

My Government in consultation with the Government of India have formulated a Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) for the KBK Districts with the core objectives of drought proofing, development saturation and poverty alleviation and improved quality of life of the people. This is an integral part of Rastriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) since 2002-2003. The Annual Action Plan for Special Central Assistance (SCA) under RLTAP for Rs. 250 crore has been approved by the Planning Commission, Government of India during 2004-2005. Besides, Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the tune of Rs.100 crore under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) has been envisaged during 2004-2005 for these districts for completion of various Irrigation Projects in the KBK region. For the year 2005-2006, SCA of the order of Rs. 250 crore has been projected for implementation of RLTAP in KBK districts. Similarly Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the tune of Rs. 80 crore under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) has been envisaged for the year 2005-2006 for these districts for completion of various irrigation projects. Due to persistent efforts of my Government, the Planning Commission included two identified Districts namely Ganjam and Mayurbhanj under “Backward Districts Initiative (BDI)” of Rastriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) during 2003-2004. Further three more districts namely Gajapati, Keonjhar and Sundargarh have been included under BDI of RSVY during 2004-2005 with a view to accelerating development of identified backward areas as well as reducing imbalances.

An outlay of Rs. 453.21 crore has been made for implementation of 12 ongoing externally aided projects (EAPs) and 11 pipeline projects in the Annual Plan 2004-2005 in several sectors including Agriculture, Health, Works, Energy, Irrigation, Housing & Urban Development and Welfare of ST & SC. The State Government anticipates to mobilise resources of the order of Rs. 600 crore through externally aided projects during the year 2005-2006.

The progress under MPLAD and MLALAD is regularly monitored by the Planning & Co-ordination Department.

The Western Orissa Development Council (WODC) was constituted to accelerate the pace of development in the western districts of the State comprising 11 districts. As per the provision of the WODC Act, 2000, the State Government have been allocating Rs. 50 crore to the Council every year.

My Government has mounted a Special Drive on Employment Programmes. In this connection, formulation of State Employment Policy as well as creation of Self Employment Mission is under active consideration of the Government.

7. My Government accords high priority to developing the agriculture sector in the State as more than 70% of the households are dependant on agriculture for their livelihood. Reduction in poverty depends crucially on a quantum increase in the incomes of agricultural households. My Government will continue its thrust on diversification of agriculture. Our extension efforts in this regard will be redoubled and strategic interventions geared to achieving a shift from traditional agriculture to commercial cultivation of cash crops. Stress is being given by my Government for upgradation of crop production technologies adopted by our farmers and adoption of integrated nutrient management and pest management practices. Extension work will be stepped up and Farmers’ Training Programme, Farmers’ Field Schools and Demonstrations

will be conducted under the Work Plan for Macro Management of Agriculture, ISOPOM, ICDP (Cotton) and other programmes for bringing the advanced crop production technologies and packages of practices to the door-step of the farmers. There is tremendous scope for diversification to Horticultural crops due to our suitable agroclimatic conditions. Three integrated Horticulture Development projects are under implementation in three tribal districts of Keonjhar, Gajapati and Koraput. Under various on-going programmes implemented through the Work Plan for Macro-management of Agriculture and the Revised Long-Term Action Plan (RLTAP) for KBK during 2004-2005, fourteen lakh grafts of mango, guava, litchi, sapota, kagji lime, orange, custard apple and other fruits, ten lakh grafts of cashew, twelve lakh suckers of banana, and 2 lakh vegetable minikits have been supplied to the farmers for taking up fruits and vegetable crops in their fields. In order to encourage tuber crops, planting materials for 2,100 demonstrations on Sweet potato, Yam, and Elephant foot Yam will also be supplied.

My Government is encouraging floriculture in the State and educating farmers in the production technologies of different commercial flowers. My Government has initiated steps for implementation of the programmes of the Horticulture Mission envisioned by the Central Government for an integrated development of horticulture in the country. My Government has taken up a programme for assisting farmers to create captive irrigation potential in their fields through installation of Shallow and Medium Tube Wells and Bore Wells by availing Loan from NABARD. Over 17,000 wells were installed during this year and 14,400 wells have been programmed for 2005-2006.

Farm mechanisation has become popular in the State. Subsidy is being provided on Tractors, Power Tillers and other farm equipment. Besides, subsidy is being provided to set up Agro Services Centres for private entrepreneurs for custom leasing of farm equipments to the local farmers.

Development of the Micro Watersheds in drought prone areas of the State for drought proofing and improving the moisture regime has been accorded high priority. 2117 micro watersheds with a total treatable area of 11.57 lakh hectares are being developed currently under various schemes such as Drought Prone Area Programme, Integrated Watershed Development Programme, National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas, River Valley Project, Revised Long Term Action Plan for KBK and the DFID assisted Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Programmes. There is a programme to treat 1.4 lakh hectares during 2005-2006 under different schemes with active involvement of the beneficiary agricultural families.

In order to ensure payment of minimum support price to farmers for their surplus paddy, my Government has decided to procure 20 lakh MTs of rice during the current marketing season 2004-2005 out of which 17 lakh MTs will be procured through Levy route. Paddy equivalent to one lakh MT shall be procured by State Agencies namely Orissa State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd and Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies under decentralized procurement scheme. Food Corporation of India has been requested to procure paddy equivalent to 2 lakh MTs of rice directly from the farmers.

8. There has been consistent endeavour of my Government to increase the irrigation potential of the State by way of completing the ongoing major, medium and minor irrigation projects and taking up new projects. My Government has also availed financial assistance from World Bank and other International Agencies to achieve this objective. Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project, funded by World Bank, was completed in September, 2004 with a cost of Rs.1391 crore to stabilize 2,46,273 hectares of ayacut through 26 Major and Medium Irrigation Projects. Further 65,506 hectares of additional irrigation potential has been created by completing 3 Major and 5 Medium Irrigation Projects. Another World Bank Scheme, i.e., National Hydrology Project-II is going to be taken up to develop hydrological information system.

The work of Rengali Major Irrigation Project is currently going on under the Japan Bank of International Co-operation (JBIC) Scheme. Eighteen Major and Medium Irrigation Projects have been taken up under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). One hundred and seventy Minor Irrigation projects (MIP) have been taken up with NABARD loan assistance out of which 66 M.I.Ps are likely to be completed during 2005-2006. My Government has programmed to create 43,274 hectares of additional irrigation potential through Major, Medium, Minor and Lift Irrigation Projects during 2005-2006. It has been programmed to execute twenty-two MIPs under the RLTA to provide irrigation facilities to KBK districts. My Government has earmarked Rs.7 crore for execution of MIPs under the Biju Krushak Vikash Yojana (BKVY). Under this scheme 16,575 Lift Irrigation Projects have been installed by the end of 2004 and it is programmed to set up 500 new Lift Irrigation Projects in different districts of the State during 2004-2005. 1000 new Lift Irrigation Projects with designed ayacut of 20,000 hectares for Kharif and 12,000 hectares for Rabi under the BKVY will be taken up during 2005-2006. My Government has promoted farmers' participation in the irrigation management by forming 10,805 Pani Panchayats all over the State and is committed to implement participatory Irrigation Management over the entire irrigated ayacut of the State.

9. My Government seeks to promote animal husbandry, poultry and pisciculture in the State by adopting new scientific technologies. The State Government has taken steps to implement "Women's Dairy Projects" in 17 districts through OMFED under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP). Under this programme 837 women dairy co-operative societies comprising 60,287 women members have been organised in the State. My Government has proposed to the Government of India to include 4 KBK districts under STEP. My Government lays great emphasis on increasing fish production and processing. During 2004-2005 (by December, 2004), fish seed production has reached 59 crore. It has been decided that atleast one G.P. tank will be given on long-term lease to Women Self-Help-Groups.

10. Co-operatives have been playing a significant role in Socio-economic development of the rural areas in particular and of the State in general. Agriculture Credit, both in cash and kind, is being disbursed instantly to farmers through Kissan Credit Cards (KCCs). By the end of December, 2004, about 21.24 lakh KCCs have been issued out of which 3.02 lakh KCCs have been distributed during 2004-2005. My Government has launched an innovative scheme namely Kalinga Kisan Gold Card in the State under which Kisan Credit Card holders showing loan repayment discipline for at least two years are issued with Gold Cards. Various incentives like charging lower rate of interest, financing of consumption loan, free accident insurance policy, free study tour, and cash reward through lottery are provided to Gold Card holders. Kalinga Kisan Silver Cards (KKSCs) are issued to KKC holders showing timely loan repayment discipline for at least one year.

Out of the total crop loan financed in the State, 72% is being financed by co-operative banks. During Khariff 2004, Crop loan to the tune of Rs. 568.49 crore has been disbursed to 6.24 lakh farmers as against the target of Rs. 500 crore. In Rabi 2004-2005, Crop loan to the tune of Rs. 136.36 crore been disbursed to 1.36 lakh farmers by the end of December, 2004. During 2004-2005 (by the end of November, 2004), a total sum of Rs.18.28 crore has been paid towards indemnity of crop loss to 39,188 farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme.

My Government encourages deposit mobilisation through 749 mini banks functioning at Primary Agricultural Co-operative Society (PACS) level. This has resulted in deposits to the tune of Rs.463.21 crore by November, 2004. Central Cooperative Banks have organised 28413 Self Help Groups (SHG) by



tapping deposits to the tune of Rs. 1045.05 lakh. During 2004-2005 (by November, 2004), 2553 SHGs have been formed with deposit of Rs. 439.66 lakh. The Orissa Co-operative Housing Corporation (OCHC) implemented Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme (CCSS) of Rural Housing entrusted by Panchayati Raj Department and Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker Section (above BPL category). 8249 houses under CCSS scheme have been financed for construction during 2004-2005 (till December, 2004).

11. As forests play a major role in providing livelihood support to forest fringe dwellers, including those belonging to very vulnerable sections of the society, my Government has focused on programmes to provide livelihood support; increase forest wealth of the State; and to promote environmental awareness among the people. With the people's participation through the Joint Forest Management Scheme, the State's forest cover has increased considerably. There are 7,358 Van Samrakshan Samiti (VSS) involved in joint forest management for forest protection, conservation and development over 8,039 sq.km. of degraded forests. Protected Area Network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Park covers 6,611 sq.km. of land area and 20 km. wide marine habitat of 1,408 sq.km. seascape in Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary.

During 2004-2005, the afforestation programme has been implemented by my Government in the State under different State Plan, Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Plan schemes over total area of 24,605 hectares. Besides, 6622 hectares of compensatory afforestation has been taken up against forest diversion projects. The World Food Programme Project has continued to provide food stuff (2866 MT rice and 194 MT pulse upto December, 2004) to forest workers in predominantly tribal areas at subsidized rates besides implementation of micro projects. 10 lakh pluckers have been benefited from Kendu Leaf collection during the season. The KL trade generates wage employment of above 150 lakh mandays every year. As a welfare measure, my Government has enhanced the purchase price offered to primary collectors of KL from 21 paise to 21.5 paise for 20 leaves. The working of bamboo has commenced in current season after a gap of 4 years. It will generate substantial employment to the local people, particularly tribals. The Chilika Development Authority has been conferred with the prestigious "Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Award, 2002" during 2004 for its outstanding work on Eco-restoration of Chilika lagoon. My Government will continue to keep a strict vigil on air and water pollution.

12. My Government is committed to electrify all villages by 2007 through "rural electrification" programme. The thrust of the programme has been to cover the villages through LT-less line, LV-less transformer at optimum locations to eliminate theft of power by hooking.

After reform and restructuring of power sector in the State, Orissa Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC) Ltd. has been successfully functioning with six ongoing Hydro Electric Projects and one Joint Hydro Electric Project. The expansion of Balimela Hydro Electric Project has been taken up by the OHPC. OPGC is a highly successful company in the thermal power sector. It has been performing consistently at High Plant Load Factor (PLF) of more than 80%. It declared a dividend of Rs. 61.28 crore at the rate of 12.5% during 2004-2005. Substantial progress has been made in conceptualisation and formulation of strategic plan for capacity addition through setting up of two more units of 250 MW each. The construction is scheduled in the 3rd quarter of financial year 2005-2006 and the plant is expected to commercially operate during 2nd quarter of 2008-2009.

GRIDCO has become surplus in power and has started power-trading to other states. During 2003-2004, it earned a total gross revenue of Rs. 638 crore from power trading. During April to August 2004 alone, an amount of Rs. 531.54 crore has been earned on this account. My Government has signed an MoU with Government of India to implement the Accelerated Power Development & Reform Programme

(APDRP) Schemes in the State. As the private Distribution Companies (DISTCOs) are the implementing agencies for APDRP Schemes, they have entered into MoA (Memorandum of Agreement) with Government of Orissa for executing APDRP Programme. Seven projects of our State with an estimated cost of Rs. 592.22 crore have been approved by Government of India under APDRP. An amount of Rs. 54.35 crore has been received from Government of India and the same has been passed on to the DISTCOs for execution of APDRP.

13. Owing to the persistent efforts of my Government, collection of mining revenue has steadily increased over the years. During the current financial year, my Government has fixed a target of Rs. 618.70 crore as mining revenue. The OMC Ltd. is now a debt free profit making Public Sector Undertaking with an ambitious target of Rs. 570 crore turnover by 2005.

My Government gives emphasis on grant of mining leases for mineral based industries for value addition, so as to generate more employment and to accelerate tempo of industrialization in the State. In this connection my Government is formulating a State Mineral Policy which will be brought about shortly. In order to develop infrastructure in mining areas, my Government has enacted the Orissa Rural Infrastructure and Socio-Economic Development Act, 2005 to garner dedicated resources for such development.

14. My Government is committed to promote an investor friendly industrial climate in the State. My Government has envisaged Single Window Clearance mechanism for facilitating flow of investment under Orissa Industries (Facilitation) Act, 2004.

Orissa is endowed with vast mineral deposits. My Government is committed to provide all support for establishment of mineral-based industries. Orissa is fast emerging as a hub for steel production in the country. More than 27 mega projects in the field of Steel are likely to come up with an approximate investment of more than Rs.50,000 crore. Most of these Mega projects have started construction work and within next four years the steel making in the State would grow to 30 million MT per annum which would create approximately 50,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities in the State. POSCO of South Korea have shown keen interest to set up an integrated steel plant in Orissa with an investment of more than 10 billion US dollars which will be the biggest Foreign Direct Investment in the country. In Aluminium sector also, the investment proposals from a number of internationally reputed companies with the projected investment of Rs 25,000 crore approximately have been received and these would provide direct and indirect employment to about 10,000 persons.

My Government has signed MoU with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. on 16.02.2004 for completion of the Oil Refinery at Paradeep by 2009-2010. The production capacity of the proposed Refinery is likely to be increased by IOC from 9 MTPA to 15 MTPA with projected investment enhanced to Rs. 20,000–Rs.25,000 crore with employment potential of about 10,000 persons in direct and indirect manner. A Technical University namely “Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT)” has been established in order to improve availability of human resources for industry. About 7,000 number of students in different technical/professional degree courses are passing out every year. This will be increased to about 12,000 students per annum during the coming years.

My Government pays due attention for development of handicrafts in the State. Cluster development approach through formation of Self Help Groups has been adopted for providing self-employment to rural artisans. Under the scheme of Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) and Additional Central Assistance (ACA), various interventions for development of artisan sector like capacity building, skill up-gradation training, product development, credit and market linkages are being provided for handicraft products.

Under PMRY scheme, so far 19,997 unemployed youth have been given assistance for their self employment during 2004-2005. 20,478 persons have been provided employment by an investment of Rs.19,110 lakh in 4,058 small industries during this period.

15. Handloom is one of the most important traditional cottage industries of Orissa. It provides largest employment potential next to agriculture. Handloom products of Orissa have got wide recognition all over the country and abroad for their highly artistic designs, colour combination, superior craftsmanship and long durability. During 2004-2005, 1,01,284 persons were given support for sustained employment. It has been targeted to increase this number to 1,33,506 during 2005-2006. Emphasis has been laid on coverage of looms in organised sector; providing modern looms and accessories; electrification of loom sheds; training of weavers for skill upgradation; enhanced and easy availability of credit to weavers; continuing design and technical development; comprehensive marketing support; and social security and welfare measures for all handloom workers. Adequate funds are being provided by the State Government as well as Central Government for successful implementation of various continuing and new programmes under Handloom sector.

16. My Government has made significant strides in the field of Information Technology. Major IT Companies such as TCS and WIPRO have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government for setting up Software Development and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Centres in Infocity, Bhubaneswar. These Centres will directly employ 2,000 software professionals from the State besides creating substantial employment indirectly. My Government has made special efforts to create human resources in the State to tap emerging opportunities in the BPO Industry. The programme to impart computer training in 425 High schools under the 11th Finance Commission grant has been completed. My Government organized 8th National e-Governance Conference successfully in collaboration with Government of India in Bhubaneswar. This conference will give further fillip to e-Governance initiatives in the State. In this regard, my Government has already teamed up with National Institute of Smart Government, Hyderabad to prepare a road map for e-Governance in Orissa. To facilitate IT usage in Oriya, Orissa Computer Application Centre has taken up special programmes.

17. My Government lays a great emphasis on promotion of science and technology in emerging areas. Under Gramsat project, satellite communication has been provided to remote areas of the State. To promote biotechnology, a nodal Biotechnology cell has been created in the Department of Science & Technology with a full time Director. The cell organised an important workshop "Biotechnology-Potential for Development in Orissa" in collaboration with Department of Biotechnology of the Government of India. A 200 acre "Biotechnology Park" is proposed to be set up to provide infrastructure for potential entrepreneurs. My Government has taken a number of steps to promote development of human resources in this emerging area. A Medicinal Plant Research Station has been set up in Koraput district by M.S. Swaminathan Foundation. My Government is actively pursuing with the Government of India to set up a National Institute for Advanced Materials & Application at Bhubaneswar as a Centre of Excellence in the country.

18. My Government attaches high importance to rural connectivity as a measure to boost rural economy. My Government has constructed 2967 km. of all-weather roads to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and 1806 km. of roads are being constructed to provide connectivity to another 1172 habitations. 107 bridges have been already completed and another 103 bridges and 327 km. of roads have been taken up with NABARD assistance during 2004-2005. It is proposed to take up 40 bridges and 288 km. of roads during 2005-2006 with such assistance. Under



RLTAP for KBK districts, 13 bridges have been completed and 9 are under progress during 2004-2005. It is programmed to complete 8 bridges during 2005-2006.

My Government attaches very high priority to augment availability of safe drinking water and sanitation in rural areas. During 2004-2005, 5653 tube wells, and 390 sanitary wells have been installed. Besides, 43 piped water supply projects have been completed and 2,018 rural primary schools have been provided with potable drinking water by extension from the existing pipelines or installation of tube wells. It is programmed to install 11,495 tube wells, 550 sanitary wells and to complete about 250 piped water supply projects during 2005-2006. Under the participatory and community-led 'Swajaldhara' programme, 833 water supply projects have been sanctioned, of which 152 projects have been completed and the remaining 681 are ongoing. Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) implemented in 15 districts of the State to improve sanitation coverage has been scaled up to 30 districts at a total project cost of about Rs. 440 crore.

19. My Government is committed to improve physical connectivity in the State by construction, improvement, repair and maintenance of roads and bridges of state highways, national highways and MDR. During 2004-2005 it was targeted to complete 41 bridge projects and improvement of 521 km. of roads with an outlay of Rs.17,514 lakh. My Government has completed 10 bridges and 434 Km. of roads under different schemes by end of January, 2005. NABARD has sanctioned funds for construction of 100 bridges and improvement of 64 road projects under R.I.D.F. Out of total sanctioned projects, 62 bridges and 14 road projects have been completed by January, 2005. During 2005-2006 an outlay of Rs.33.66 crore has been proposed and it has been targeted to complete 25 bridges and 30 road projects on availability of funds. Under Central Road Fund (C.R.F.), Government of India has released Rs.76.05 crore by January, 2005 and so far 10 bridges and 80 stretches of road have been completed. My Government has requested the Central Government to provide additional fund of Rs. 25.92 crore to improve Cuttack-Paradeep road.

My Government has taken effective steps for improvement of infrastructure in KBK districts. Out of ACA/SCA made available by Government of India from 2001-2002 to 2004-2005, 22 bridges and 90 road projects have been taken up by the Works Department with an outlay of Rs.46.50 crore. My Government has proposed 14 road projects at an estimated cost of Rs.715 crore for improvement of 805 km. under JBIC funding and 27 road projects at an estimated cost of Rs.1,642 crore for improvement of 2,197 km. under World Bank funding to Government of India for approval. My Government is keen to connect Motu with Rairangpur as part of Vijayawada-Ranchi route declaring this as NH covering mostly tribal and Naxalite prone areas. The proposal has been taken up with Government of India.

20. To establish a mega port of International standard at Dhamra my Government has signed an agreement with M/s ISP Ltd. and land acquired for this purpose has been handed over to the company. The construction of the proposed port is expected to commence shortly. My Government has adopted a new 'Port Policy' for development of all its 13 minor ports. It is proposed to bring in a legislation to constitute Orissa Maritime Board to act as a single window facilitator for maritime activities in the State.

Due to efforts of my Government, there has been an improvement in the Railway network along with passenger amenities in the State. Work for construction of six new broad gauge Rail links, twelve doubling projects, two gauge conversion and electrification projects are in progress. Railways have sanctioned a new broad gauge rail line, i.e., Talcher-Bimalagarh. A techno-economic feasibility study for introduction of Mass Rapid Transit System between Cuttack-Bhubaneswar (to be extended to Choudwar and Khurda) has been sanctioned under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the Government of India. The study has already commenced.

As a part of the e-Governance initiative in the Transport Department, computerization of major activities of the State Transport Authority (STA), 10 R.T.O. offices and 7 checkgates is in progress.

21. My Government believes that Tourism can be used as an effective vehicle for economic growth and employment generation. Out of 292 places, so far identified as Tourist Centres, thrust is being given to develop tourism on a thematic basis keeping in view the available resources for optimum utilization. Establishment of a Peace Park at Dhauli under Destination Development; Infrastructure Development in the Buddhist Circuit comprising Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri, Udayagiri and Langudi under Travel Circuit Scheme; and Tourism Development at Pipili under Rural Development Scheme have already been taken up. Proposals for development of eco-tourism at Chilika, Bhitarkanika and Similipal, Rural Tourism at Barpalli and Taptapani, Destination development of Gopalpur-on-sea are under consideration. Projects like the roads connecting important tourist destinations (at an estimated cost of Rs. 44 crore), development of area around Sun Temple at Konark and Light and Sound Show at Khandagiri caves taken up during 2004-2005 are nearing completion. Development of Barkul-Rambha-Satpada-Rajhansa-Sipakuda under Travel Circuit scheme, Khiching and Sadeiberini under Rural Tourism scheme and Chandipur under Destination scheme have been proposed for 2005-2006. Effective steps have been taken by my Government for promoting and marketing the tourism products of Orissa. A major tourism festival at Puri is being organised to showcase integrated tourism and cultural potential of this ancient city. Private Sector participation in augmenting tourism infrastructure is being encouraged. Quality Budget hotels at 4 locations- Bhubaneswar, Puri, Konark and Paradeep will be set up by a reputed company.

22. Orissa has a rich cultural heritage. My Government aims at preserving, protecting and promoting the cultural heritage of the State. A State Culture Fund has been created by the Government for promoting and propagating the past glories and rich cultural heritage of the State. A National level weeklong Kharavel Festival is being organised for the last 3 years at Khandagiri for propagation of rich cultural heritage of the State. Cultural festivals organised at district levels have become events looked forward to by the people at large. They provide a much needed platform to show-case the rich tradition of performing arts. Schemes like Pension to Indigent Artists, Financial Assistance to Artists in distress have been implemented. Kalamandal, a multi purpose cultural complex is under construction at Bhubaneswar with the financial assistance of Central and State Government. "Sri Jagannathan" is a novel venture undertaken by the State of Orissa for the propagation and popularization of the aura of Sri Jagannath in contemporary perception of culture. My Government has made it possible for the discovery of the Ashokan Stupa, Ashok's idol with inscription in Brahmi script, 40 rock-cut caves and other Buddhist discoveries of Puspagiri Boudha Vihar with the excavation of Langudi and adjoining hills. These stupas and rock-cut caves are of immense historical significance. It will facilitate increase of tourists from East-Asian countries. With the efforts of my Government, 900 heritage sites and buildings have been renovated and preserved. Culture map and culture Atlas of Orissa have been published. The birth place of Netaji has been converted to a Museum of National standard.

23. Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) will continue to receive high priority of my Government. The 86th Constitutional Amendment has made elementary education a Fundamental Right. With a view to achieve the goal of UEE, my Government has implemented Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), to provide useful and relevant quality education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years by 2010.

My Government has opened 1,404 New Upper Primary schools under the scheme during 2004-2005 enrolling 79,630 out of school children. To cover the children left out of the Primary schools,

1,802 Education Guarantee Centres (EGC) have been opened to enroll 40,405 school children during last year. The total enrolment of children in the elementary level at over 70 lakh between age group of 5 to 13 years is the highest achievement ever. My Government has engaged 27,000 Swachhasevi Shiksha Sahayaks through a historic "Nijukti Mela" on a single day on 01.01.2005 which is unique in the country. Efforts are on to rationalise teacher pupil ratio @ 1:40 and to provide teachers to all the schools in far flung areas. My Government has launched a new programme called National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) for providing additional component for education of girls at elementary level in the Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) by setting up 2,868 Model Cluster Schools in 165 EBB Blocks to increase the enrolment of Girls. Innovative programme called Biju Patnaik Computer Aided Education Programme has been launched and 600 primary schools have been taken in the first phase. My Government has advanced the commencement of High Schools Examinations from March to February commencing 2005 to facilitate students of Orissa to adjust themselves into All India pattern.

24. Higher Education plays a vital role in development of the State in creating a value based society and to mould the human resource to meet the challenges of the new millenium. In order to synchronise with the National Educational System, the curriculum at Degree level and P.G. level has been modified as per U.G.C. guidelines. My Government has made all efforts to introduce professional courses like B.B.A., M.C.A., I.T. and B.T. in Government and Private sector. Block grant has been provided in favour of thirty-nine (+2) Junior Colleges during 2004-2005. Financial support for infrastructure development has been given to Government colleges. The N.C.C. cadets of Orissa have brought laurels to our State. My Government is giving full encouragement to promote various sports and youth activities in the State.

25. My Government is committed to provide better health services and medicare to the people of the State through allopathy as well as other Systems of Medicine such as Homoeopathy, Ayurveda and Unani. World Bank assisted Orissa Health System Development Project (OHSDP) continues to make rapid progress in strengthening health infrastructure particularly in rural areas.

My Government is making all efforts to reduce the infant mortality rate to sixty per one thousand live births by 2005 under "Infant Mortality Reduction Mission". A new strategy under the IMR Mission called "Navajyoti" has been proposed to improve home-based management of newborns in all remote villages and facilitate their prompt referral to health facilities. The National Pulse Polio Programme is being implemented throughout the State by immunizing all infants and children within the age group of 0-5 years. In fact, the year 2004 was Polio free in the State. The National Leprosy Eradication Programme to achieve elimination of Leprosy by December, 2005 is being actively pursued through general health care system. The integration of Leprosy elimination services with general health care, ICDS and Panchayati Raj systems will be further strengthened during 2005-2006. National programmes on major diseases like T.B., Aids, Malaria, Filariasis, Blindness control are being implemented with vigour. Biomedical Waste disposal plants and Intensive care units are being set up in three Government Medical College Hospitals of the State. Eight Regional Diagnostic Centres would be functional from the year 2005-2006 under the 11th Finance Commission award at a cost of Rs.24 crore.

26. The decadal growth of urban population in the State is about 30%. Large-scale migration to urban areas has accelerated the demand for infrastructural facilities, supply of safe drinking water, provision of sewerage system and a large and unmet demand for housing. My Government is committed to provide better civic amenities to the urban people by making adequate provision of safe drinking water supply and sanitation facilities. About 651 million litres of drinking water is supplied per day benefiting a urban population of 4.2 million. My Government has successfully completed 4 water supply projects through Orissa Water

Supply & Sewerage Board (OWSSB) with loan assistance from HUDCO at Cuttack, Jeypore, Sambalpur and Kendrapara. Rourkela Civil Town Water Supply Project is nearing completion. Works at Titilagarh, Angul and Talcher will be completed by March, 2005. The living condition of urban slum dwellers is being improved under National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) in the State. My Government has taken steps under Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) to benefit the urban poor particularly women, SCs and STs, Physically Handicapped and family headed by a woman in all the ULBs of the State. A special drive has been initiated for creation of self-employment opportunities for the educated youth in urban areas by providing them kiosks and shopping units. Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) is implemented in 21 ULBs of the State for providing dwelling units to the poor slum dwellers.

My Government aims at arresting migration of people from rural areas and smaller towns to the larger cities through Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT). 65 towns in the State have been covered under this Scheme.

27. My Government is keen to devolve powers and responsibilities upon Panchyati Raj Institutions (PRIs) so as to enable them to function as Institutions of Self-Governance. Capacity building of elected people's representatives is being taken up on regular basis through various means including off-campus and GRAMSAT training. All 314 Blocks and 30 DRDAs have been provided with V-SAT connectivity. New software tools - PRIASOFT and RURAL SOFT - have been developed for accounts and scheme monitoring. My Government has taken up huge housing programme for the rural poor affected by the Super Cyclone of 1999 and high floods. 6,74,875 houses have been completed incurring an expenditure of Rs.1,477 crore out of the allotment of 7 lakh houses (and Rs.1,512 crore) received from Government of India. During 2004-2005, 27,732 Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) houses have been completed by the end of January, 2005. Employment of 341 lakh mandays has been generated under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana during 2004-2005 (up to December, 2004) utilizing about 2 lakh MT of rice and Rs. 196 crore. In terms of physical infrastructure, major completed projects include 4.48 lakh MT additional capacity in Block/GP storage godowns, 3,036 water bodies and 8,667 cement concrete roads (1,419 km. length). Under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), 41,533 'Swarozgaries' have been benefited during 2004-05 (up to January, 2005). To create additional wage employment in rural areas, National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) has been launched during 2004-2005 in 199 blocks of 18 districts in the State.

28. The Public Distribution System is functioning effectively through a wide network in the State. At present, under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, rice @ 35 kg. per family per month @ Rs.3/- per kg. is being provided to 5,05,500 poorest of the poor families. An additional 4,95,800 families including primitive tribal communities are going to be covered in the state under the scheme shortly. Under the Annapurna Scheme 10 kg. of rice per beneficiary per month is being supplied free of cost to 64,800 senior citizens who, though eligible have, not been covered under National Old Age Pension scheme/State Old Age Pension scheme.

My Government has taken effective steps to protect the rights of consumers. One State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission and 31 District Consumer Redressal Forums are functioning in the State for this purpose.

29. My Government accords high priority to the all-round development of STs, SCs, OBCs, and Minorities in the State. Due importance to the development of education in tribal areas has been given. Ten Model Schools have been set up in three different phases to impart quality education to the tribal students during the year, 2004-2005. For development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), thrust is being given by my Government on their education, health and providing them lighting facilities in their houses through non-conventional sources of energy under the Central Sector Scheme for PTGs. During 2004-2005, emphasis

has been given by my Government on vocational training to the tribal youth for income generation through self-employment.

My Government has launched DFID-IFAD-WFP assisted Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme (OTELP) on 2nd October 2004 with an outlay of Rs. 430 crore. The programme aims at empowerment of tribals and providing them livelihood support and food security through watershed approach. In the first phase, ten blocks in 4 districts namely Koraput, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Gajapati are being covered. The programme is being implemented through NGOs which have already been given the schedule of activities to be completed within a particular time frame. At present base line survey in the villages is going on through a participatory approach.

The State cannot march on the path of progress unless Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, OBCs and Minorities receive their due attention. My Government is committed to strongly deal with problems of illegal transfer of tribal lands and money lending in tribal areas and the district administration has been directed to go to the door step of the tribals through intense touring and camp courts. As many as 68 minor forest products have been delicensed by the Department of Forest and Environment and the powers to grant registration have been delegated to the Gram Panchayats. Special steps are being taken to settle lands under occupation of tribals prior to 1980 through appropriate intervention in the Apex Court. With a view to improve their socio-economic condition my Government has formulated various economic development programmes and income generating schemes for the benefit of SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities and Safai Karmacharies by providing soft loans through bankable schemes. These schemes are being implemented through Orissa Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Finance Co-operative Corporation Ltd. and Orissa Backward Classes Finance and Development Co-operative Corporation Ltd., which have been declared as State Channelising Agencies.

30. My Government will continue to strive hard for the development of women and children, particularly through the Integrated Child Development Services Programme (ICDS), which covers more than 30 lakh persons including children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. To improve the nutritional status of malnourished children a programme called "Positive Deviance Approach" (Aame Bhi Paribu) has been taken up in the districts of Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, Malkangiri and Dhenkanal. All 326 ICDS Projects of the State have been covered under the Kishori Shakti Yojana which aims at the holistic development of the Adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years. Special interventions like reduction of malnutrition and child mortality and construction of AWCs in KBK districts have been taken up under RLTA.

My Government is committed to provide cooked meals under Mid-Day Meal Programme for the Primary School children. More than 50 lakh school children are getting cooked and nutritious meals in the schools. Emergency Feeding Programme for the old, infirm, indigent and destitute persons would continue. My Government has increased the targeted beneficiaries under State Old Age Pension (SOP) scheme by 35,000 in 2004-2005 to a total of 675,000. Besides, 493,400 beneficiaries are assisted under National Old Age Pension (NOAP). Other schemes such as National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Balika Samriddhi Yojana (BSY) continue to provide the target groups.

A Self Help Mission for Empowerment of Women called 'Mission Shakti' was launched on International Women's Day in 2001 to promote formation of groups and strengthening of existing Women's Self Help Groups in the State. 1,39,059 SHGs have been so far formed in all districts of the State. These groups are taking up different economic activities like kerosene dealership, labour intensive works, pisciculture, poultry and other activities. 97,358 groups have been advanced credit to the tune of Rs.212.75 crore. The "Orissa Dowry Prohibition Rules" have been enacted and Dowry Prohibition Boards are functioning in all



Sub-divisions of the State. A centrally funded scheme 'Swayamsiddha' aimed at Women's empowerment through promotion of WSHG is being implemented in Orissa in 36 Blocks of 9 districts (8 KBK districts and Boudh). The scheme for welfare of orphan and destitute children is running in the 28 districts of the State through 85 orphanages where 5,603 children are currently being looked after by my Government. Aids and appliances are being provided to the needy, disabled persons throughout the State. Under the "Orissa Disability Pension Scheme", my Government has enhanced the target to 1,15,000 beneficiaries.

31. My Government is committed to the welfare of the working classes. Empowerment of Social Security Legislation is given priority. Child labourers employed in hazardous jobs have been released and admitted in National Child Labour Project schemes for undergoing formal education and vocational training in 18 centres. 35,133 such children have been provided with education by the end of December, 2004. Full medical care has been extended in favour of industrial labourers and their family members through a network of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries.

32. My Government has been making efforts to provide a responsive and people oriented Administration and has made arrangements to hear and dispose public grievances and pension cases expeditiously. The Chief Minister's Grievance Cell is functioning effectively for redressal of grievances of general public. Financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) is being provided to indigent applicants for their treatment for major ailments like cardiac surgery, kidney transplant and cancer. During 2004-05 (up to December, 2004), an assistance of Rs.1,39,19,500 has been provided to 1,412 needy persons under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

My Government is committed to curbing corruption at all levels of Administration. The institution of Lokpal has been created and activated to look into cases of corruption and impropriety by persons holding high office. 404 cases have been finalised by office of the Lokpal, Orissa during the period. These activities will be continued during the year, 2005-2006. In order to maintain transparency in Administration, the Vigilance Department is actively investigating charges of corruption against various public servants. During 2004-2005, 285 criminal cases have been registered so far involving 650 persons which include 69 Group 'A' and 102 Group 'B' officers. Chargesheets in 201 cases have also been forwarded to court during the period.

33. My Government has taken up an ambitious scheme to computerise all Tehsils of the State with full central assistance. Government of India have released Rs.29.87 crore for the purpose out of which Rs. 22.57 crore has been spent and 142 Tehsils have since become computer operational. Efforts are being made to computerise the remaining Tehsils during the current financial year. My Government has taken up digitisation of cadastral survey maps in 6 Tehsils. A proposal has been sent to Central Government to undertake map digitisation in all Tehsils, re-survey and prepare up-to-date; accurate maps with modern survey equipments; complete survey and settlement of unsurveyed areas; provide land pass books; and take up the homestead-cum-garden farming scheme. This proposal has been accepted by the Ministry of Rural Development and funds are being located from a donor agency. My Government is keen to expedite the schemes meant for welfare of the weaker sections of society. During the year 2004-2005 (till 30.11.04), 132.39 acres of government wasteland has been distributed to 3,773 homesteadless families; 1108.139 acres of wasteland to 1,378 landless families; and 165.21 acres of ceiling surplus land has been provided to landless families. In the scheduled areas of the State, 1,494 ST families have been restored with 2,413 acres of land under the provisions of Regulation 2 of 1956 during the year 2004-2005 (till November, 2004).

34. My Government is committed to provide "Justice to all". The Orissa Human Rights Commission has been set up with effect from 11.07.2003 to take care of the citizens who are subjected to harrassments

and other inhuman treatments. To provide effective justice delivery system and speedy trial, my Government has appointed 54 candidates as Civil Judge (Junior Division) during 2004-2005. 96,133 cases have been disposed of by organising 440 Lok Adalats during 2004-2005 in the State. The permanent and continuous Lok Adalats as well as counselling and conciliation centres have been established in the High Court Legal Service Committee and each of the 30 districts of the State as an additional forum for speedier disposal of cases. As a result, 657 pending cases in various Courts have been disposed of during the year, 2004-2005. In order to accelerate disposal of pending cases, my Government has taken initiative by establishing Fast Track Courts. Forty-one Fast Track Courts have been made functional and 19,947 pending cases have been disposed of by these Courts (as on 31.08.2004). Decision has been taken to establish eight numbers of Special (Vigilance) Courts for trial of offences under Prevention of Corruption Act during the period 2003-2006. In the first phase, two special courts will be established during 2004-2005 at Cuttack and Balasore. Legal Aid is being provided to the weaker sections of society. In order to make the legal services programmes more effective, the proposal for establishing permanent Lok Adalats, Legal Aid Cells in the Jails and continuing separate Lok Adalats in each Department of Government are under active consideration of my Government.

35. My Government is striving hard for preservation of peace and tranquility in the State which is essential for economic resurgence of Orissa. The overall law and order situation in the State remained under control during 2004. Law and order problems were handled tactfully. There has been no significant Naxalite violence after April, 2004. The State Government has withdrawn 2,531 police cases and 11,424 cases relating to offences under Forest and Excise Act against the "Adivasis". Two units of Orissa Disaster Rescue Assistance Force have been established during 2004-2005 to render rescue operation at the time of natural disaster. One Special Intelligence Wing and one Special Operation Group have been created to deal with terrorist and extremist activities. The second India Reserve Battalion is going to be established during 2005-2006 to deal with "Naxalite Problem". To improve physical infrastructure in existing prisons, my Government has provided Rs. 21.47 crore during 2004-2005.

36. I am immensely privileged to address this sitting of the august House which gives me the opportunity to outline the policies and programmes of my Government in priority areas of activities based on the common programme. My Government is committed to implement all the programmes and promises it has made for the welfare of the people of the State inspite of the financial constraints. My Government proposes to infuse new vigour and dynamism for rapid development of the State. It needs the unstinted co-operation and increased devotion to work and duties from all sections of the people to achieve these objectives and I hope that Hon'ble Members of this august body will extend their full co-operation and support to the progressive and forward-looking policies and programmes of my Government.

With these words I leave you to your deliberations and wish you all success.

JAI HIND