

Mr Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

1. I take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to you all to this first Session of the year 2010 and the Eighth session of the Eleventh Vidhan Sabha. I also extend my warm wishes through you to the people of Himachal Pradesh for a happy and prosperous year 2010. It is my proud privilege to address this August House of the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha for the first time after assuming the office of Governor. I am indeed privileged to hold the office in this hill State renowned as much for its natural beauty and high standards of development as for the praiseworthy characteristics of its people.

2. My Government stands for all round development and welfare of the people and has been according highest priority for the effective implementation of development programmes. The Government is giving special emphasis on the implementation of developmental schemes for Scheduled Castes, Schedule Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Backward Areas through respective Special Sub Plans. Women empowerment and child welfare has been given top priority. The Government has started innovative schemes like '**Pt. Deen Dayal Kisan-Bagwan Samridhi Yojna**' and '**Doodh Ganga Yojna**' for creating additional self employment opportunities and improving the socio economic conditions of the farmers. The Government is putting in sincere efforts for all round development of the State and as a result, the state economy recorded growth rate of 7.4 per cent during the year 2008-2009. Against the Plan size of Rs. 2400 crore in the year 2008-2009, my Government has raised the Plan size to Rs. 2700 crore for the year 2009-2010 and has given highest priority to social services sector which accounts for 32.30 percent of the total Plan size. My Government has taken effective steps to generate additional financial resources and resolves to achieve the mission of "**Sadak, Shiksha, Swasthya, Swarogjar, Swavalamban and Swabhiman**".

3. During the year 2009-10, the State of Himachal Pradesh got several prestigious awards at national level. India Today gave '**State of the States Award**' to Himachal Pradesh Government in Education, Health, Investment and Macro-economy. The State was also awarded as the '**Fastest Mover State**' for Overall Performance, Capital Investment and Macro-economy by it. IBN-7 and Outlook gave '**Diamond State Award**' to the State in Women Empowerment, Employment Generation, Special Award for Overall Performance and Environment Conservation and for increasing Green Cover in the State.

4. My Government has taken several policy decisions towards socio-economic development of the every section of the society, especially the senior citizens, women, children, disabled, SCs, STs and OBCs. Social security pension is being provided to 2,67,288 beneficiaries at the rate of Rs. 330/- PM. The Government is providing housing subsidy for construction of house for the SCs, STs and OBCs and amount of construction grant has been enhanced from Rs. 27,500/- to Rs. 38,500/- and for repair from Rs. 12,500/- to Rs. 15,000. My Government has enhanced amount of assistance being given under the '**Mother Teresa Matri Sambal Yojna**' from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2000/- per child and has also enhanced income criteria from Rs. 11000 to Rs. 18000/- per annum and 10,054 beneficiaries have been benefited. My Government is providing assistance under the scheme '**Mukhya Mantri Kanyadan Yojna**' at a cost of Rs. 11001/- and for this income ceiling has been raised from Rs. 7500/- to Rs.15000/-. Under the SCSP an allocation of Rs. 668 crore is being spent and this allocation is 12 % higher than the allocation made for the year 2008-09. Under the ICDS currently 18,248 Anganwari Centers are running in the State and 138 new AWCs have been opened during the current year. Empowering women has been conscious

effort of my Government. During the year 2009, 2012 new Self Help Groups (SHGs) were constituted taking the total number of SHGs to 25,524 in the State. These Self Help Groups have generated savings of Rs. 753 lakh while availing bank loan amounting to Rs. 1055 lakh.

5. In the ensuing general elections to the Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions, 50 % seats are being reserved for women. Women officers have been designated in every department as nodal officers to attend to the problems relating to women and the required action is ensured in a time bound manner. '**Matri Shakti Bima Yojana**' covers all women living below the poverty line within the age group of 10 to 75 years. The compensation amount under the scheme has been enhanced by the State Government w.e.f 1st February, 2009 to Rs.1,00,000/- in case of death, permanent disability arising out of accidents and also in case of death of husband and Rs. 50,000 in case of partial disability. During the year 2009-10, Rs. 95 lakh has been released in 112 cases.

6. The Socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes is getting special attention of the Govt. My Government is committed to earmark 9% plan outlay for the Tribal Area Sub Plan. An outlay of Rs. 243.00 Crore is being utilized under Tribal Sub-Plan for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes during current financial year, 2009-10. The State Government has also implemented the Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 in the Scheduled Areas of the State.

7. My Government has accorded top priority to increase agriculture production and income of the farmers. The government provided 50% subsidy on all kind of seeds during Rabi 2009-10 season in view of

drought situation. '**Pt. Deen Dayal Kisan Bagwan Samridhi Yojna**' is being successfully implemented in the State with the highest subsidy component of 80%. An area of about 4.8 lakh sq. metres has been brought under Poly Houses. Phase-II of this scheme will cover about 4000 hectare area under sprinkler/drip irrigation systems. The farmers are being provided necessary technologies and inputs to get full benefit out of this scheme. This has also helped in creating self-employment opportunities for the un-employed youths. Under Soil Health Management, 1.25 lakh soil health cards were distributed to the farmers. Soil Testing Laboratories were also strengthened by providing required equipments and specialized man-power and one Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory has also been put into service. For promotion of organic farming, 1.50 lakh Vermi Compost Units have been set up and 4000 farmers were registered for organic farming. For ensuring availability of quality seeds to the farmers, the Government launched a massive Seed Village Programme by covering 900 villages and 1,07,800 farmers. 21,760 hectare area has been brought under seed production. In order to provide relief to small and marginal farmers who have taken Taccavi and land improvement loans during the year 1950 to 1960, my Government decided to write off the loans and interest amounting to Rs.4.96 crore. This has provided relief to 43854 small and marginal farmers. Stamp duty on bank loan upto Rs. 10 lakh has been exempted to the agriculturists and horticulturist for their farm activities.

8. The State Government has included Tomato in Solan district and Potato in Kangra and Una districts under Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme during the current financial year. For strengthening of extension services, 400 posts of Agriculture Development Officers and Agriculture

Extension Officers were sanctioned against which 295 officers have already been appointed. Recruitment for remaining posts is in process.

9. Horticulture is the mainstay for the socio-economic development of majority population in the State and efforts are being made to bring the Horticulture production at par with the global standards. The Government has strengthened the Horticulture development activities which have resulted in an increase in the area under horticulture to 2.05 lakh hectares and the State has achieved a record fruit production in the State. Every year around 4000 to 5000 hectares additional area is being brought under horticulture. The horticulture industry is annually contributing around Rs. 2000 crore towards the State economy. The Government has strengthened the State marketing policy and enhanced the support price of Apple, Mango and Citrus fruits being procured under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) by Rs.0.50 per Kg. 'Horticulture Technology Mission' has been successfully implemented in the State since October, 2003 under which funds amounting to Rs. 128.50 crore have been received so far from the Government of India. Since its inception, 1,02,199 farmers have been benefited under the Mission.

10. The horticulture development activities are further being complemented by an additional central assistance scheme 'Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna' under which Rs 1354 lakh have been utilized. To enhance the fruit production, quality and productivity, improved germ-plasm of apple, pear, stone fruits and nuts are being introduced through import and propagation at Government nurseries. Every year, huge losses are caused to crops due to natural calamities. The State Government has launched '**Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme**' (WBCIS) on pilot basis for apple and

mango for which 50% Government assistance as premium share is provided to the farmers.

11. Livestock plays an important role in the economy of the farmers of the State. Animal health facilities are being provided through a network of 2133 veterinary institutions in the Pradesh. The department of Animal Husbandry is implementing Breed Improvement Programme to improve the live stock and milk yield. Apart from this, various activities such as veterinary services, vaccination, fodder development etc. are aimed at increasing productivity of the animals. To strengthen the economy of women in farming sector '**Doodh Ganga Project**' was launched in district Mandi, Solan and Sirmour with an outlay of Rs. 300 crore under which a provision for loan of Rs. 3 lakh for purchase of milch animals by individuals or Self Help Groups is available. Out of this 50% loan is interest free and 50% interest is also subsidized on timely repayment of loan. Milch Livestock Insurance Scheme is being implemented in District Hamirpur and Shimla to provide security to the farmers. For improving the lot of sheep breeders of the State, Shepherd Insurance Scheme is being implemented and 8993 shepherds have been insured under this scheme. In order to rehabilitate the stray cattle, Gosadan with a capacity of 600 animals costing Rs. 175 lakh has been constructed at Khajjian in District Kangra. A sum of Rs. 187 lakh has been provided to increase the capacity of 5 Gosadans falling in Districts of Solan, Hamirpur and Bilaspur. To make the gosadans self-sustainable, a sum of Rs. 30 lakh has been provided for the construction of vermi-compost pits in 56 Gosadans of the State.

12. In order to provide remunerative price to the milk producers, milk procurement rate has been enhanced by Rs. 4 per litre. To ensure that

milk is instantaneously chilled at village level, 52 Bulk Milk Coolers have been installed throughout the State. To bring transparency and automation in the testing of milk, 6 Automatic Milk Collection units have been installed in Village Dairy Co-operative societies.

13. Fish farming is being given due priority in the State. Effective development measures resulted in the production of 1063 tonnes of fish valued at Rs.538 lakh from the State reservoirs which is 99 tonnes more as compared to the corresponding period of previous year. Premium free insurance cover has been provided to 6560 fishermen. The limit of insurance cover has been increased from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/- during the current year.

14. My Government has assigned high priority to providing of new roads and improvement of existing roads. The total length of motorable roads in the State is 31,328 Kilometers. Out of total 17,449 census villages, 9382 villages stand covered with motorable roads. During the financial year 2009-10, 611 kilometers new motorable roads and 32 bridges have been completed and 139 villages connected with roads. Out of 3243 panchayats, 2947 have been connected and work to connect 259 panchayats is in progress. There are 11 National Highways in the State having length of 1472 kilometers. Efforts are being made for declaration of 7 other State roads having length of 890 kilometers as National highways. Rs.1365 crore World Bank funded State Road Project for upgradation and improvement of 2435 kilometers of State highways and major district roads has been taken up. My Government has decided to construct Holi-Uttrala tunnel at an estimated cost of Rs.145.73 crores, Karsehar-Telang (Bhubu Jot) tunnel at a cost of Rs.85.75 crores and Bangana-Dhaneta tunnel at a cost of Rs.35.40 crore on priority.

These tunnels will not only reduce the distance between these areas but also protect the environment.

15. My Government's endeavour is to provide quality education in the State. The State has made tremendous progress in the field of Elementary Education. Universal access to Elementary Education has been strengthened with the opening of Primary/Elementary Schools within a distance of 1 to 1.5 Kms in hilly areas and 1.5 to 3.0 Kms in plain areas. At present, 10727 primary schools and 4383 middle schools are functional in the State and 88 Education Guarantee Scheme(EGS)/Alternative Innovative Education(AIE) centres and mobile centres are also providing education to mobile population under Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan. A minimum accommodation of at least three class rooms is being provided in the elementary schools. Playgrounds, drinking water and sanitation facilities are also being extended to all the Government Elementary Schools in the State.

16. The mid-day meal scheme is functioning satisfactorily upto middle standard throughout the State benefiting 4,70,630 Primary school children and 3,39,604 upper Primary Students. The educational needs of children with special needs (Disabled children) are being taken due care in the State. **National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL)** is also being implemented in the eight educationally backward blocks of Chamba, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmour districts of Pradesh. Highest priority is being given towards education in the State to ensure access and equity to all areas and all sections of the society. The total plan outlay is increasing every year along with the number of educational institutions network. For the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12, the total Plan outlay is Rs.14,000 crore out of which, the outlay of Higher education is Rs. 615.15

crore. My Government will continue to provide better educational opportunities to the people of the State.

17. At present, 14 scholarship schemes are being provided in the state to benefit the students of different categories including meritorious students and students of weaker sections of the society and about Rs. 10 crore is being spent for this purpose during the year 2009-10. The State Govt. is supplying free text books to the students studying in 6th to 10th classes belonging to SC, ST, OBC and IRDP categories. During 2009-10, Rs. 8.85 crore has been spent for this purpose benefiting 1,18,166 students of 9th and 10th classes. The process to fill up 634 posts of College Lecturers, 1140 posts of School Lecturers and 82 posts of Assistants Librarians by direct recruitment and 185 posts of school lecturers under ex-servicemen quota through Sainik Welfare Department has been initiated. Posts of 16 Principals by promotion and 5 Principals by direct recruitment of college cadre, 218 Lecturers (College cadre), 302 Principals (School cadre), 862 Headmasters have been filled up.

18. Technical Education is being promoted in a big way in the State. The need is not only to sustain but to develop a sound system of Technical Education where excellence, relevance and participation are the hall-marks and that the system is dedicated to match the aims of globalization for providing employment opportunities and growth of State economy. One Technical University is being established at Hamirpur in Govt. Sector from the next academic session. A proposal for opening of 5 new Polytechnics in Districts of Bilaspur, Kullu, Sirmour, Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti has been sent to the Central Govt. under the scheme **“Sub-Mission of Polytechnic” under Co-ordinated action for skilled development** with one time central

grant of Rs. 12.3 crore for each Polytechnic. 3 ITIs of the State have been upgraded under domestic funding scheme and 11 ITIs of the State have been upgraded into **Centres of Excellence** with World Bank Assistance.

19. My Government is committed to provide quality health care to the people of the State. The State Health indicators are better than the national average. MBBS seats have been increased from 65 to 100 and Post Graduate seats increased from 39 to 62 in Indira Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, Shimla. A proposal to add 21 more PG seats is pending with Government of India. State Government has decided to set up a Centre of Excellence in Nursing Education at Dr. Rajinder Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda. The Dr. Rajinder Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda has been selected for upgradation under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna-II for which Government of India will provide financial assistance of Rs 125 Crore and the State will contribute Rs 25 crore. Letters of Intent(LOI) have been issued to 6 applicants for setting up medical colleges in the State.

20. With a view to strengthen health services in rural areas, 254 Medical Officers and 605 Nurses have been appointed and posted in the remote and difficult areas of the State. The State Government has constituted Rogi Kalyan Samities in 568 institutions (upto PHC level) to manage the health services in an effective decentralized manner. State Government has approved to set up an Emergency Medical Response System by providing 100 well equipped Ambulances for referral transport and emergency cases in the State. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna was implemented in two districts under which 80,242 smart cards for BPL families were issued.

21. The Department of Indian System of Medicines & Homoeopathy is also providing health care services in the State through 25 Ayurvedic Hospitals, 1109 Ayurvedic Health Centres, 14 Homoeopathy Centres, 3 Unani Centres, 4 Amchis and 1 Nature Care Unit. 85 Posts of Ayurvedic Medical Officers have been filled up and the recruitment of 300 Ayurvedic Pharmacists is in process. Anemia Free Himachal programme covered two districts of the State and 8,98,491 Blood samples were tested for Anemia. To enhance the Yoga and Ayurveda related medical tourism, land measuring 96.02 Bigha at Mauja Kahlog, Tehsil Kandaghat, district Solan has been made available to Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haridwar which will help the State to become '**Herbal State**'. A MoU has also been signed with Patanjali Yogpeeth for purchase of herbs. To develop the medicinal plants sector in the State, an action plan for Rs. 7.56 crore has been submitted to the National Medicinal Plants Board, Government of India.

22. Providing clean drinking water and extension of irrigation facilities is on the top priority of the State Government. Drinking water facilities having being provided to all the census villages, efforts are being made to cover all the habitations in the State. 3854 habitations have been covered during the current financial year against the target of covering 5000 habitations. 1591 hand pumps have been installed in various parts of the State. There is a target to complete augmentation work of Dharamshala and Sundernagar water supply schemes and Kotkhai and Sunni sewerage schemes during the current financial year.

23. Special emphasis is being laid on better tax administration and effective enforcement of the existing laws. Traders Welfare Board has been

set up and VAT computerization project is expected to be operationalised in the current year.

24. My Government aims at strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions. Norms for cost of construction of Panchayat Ghars have been enhanced from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.3.40 lakh and an amount of Rs.499.80 lakh was released for construction of 238 new Panchayat Ghars. Rs.730 lakh is being spent for up-gradation of 730 Panchayat Ghars. 21,238 elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and officials have been given training during the last two years. Provision of Rs.106.76 lakh has been made for training programme during the current financial year. Computers to left out 873 Gram Panchayats are being provided so that every Panchayat has a computer.

25. My Government is implementing various housing schemes for providing housing facilities to the houseless poor. Under the Indira Awas Yojana, against a target of construction of 8212 new houses, 4222 houses have been constructed incurring expenditure of Rs. 1768.68 lakh. Under the '**Atal Awas Yojana**' against the target of construction of 5175 new houses, all have been sanctioned to the beneficiaries and 2314 houses have been constructed by incurring an expenditure of Rs.1196.18 lakh.

26. '**Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana**' is being implemented to provide self employment avenues to the vulnerable groups among the rural poor. Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI's) are being established in 10 districts for imparting training to rural youth for self employment in collaboration with lead Bank of the districts. Under '**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act**'

(MNREGA), 100 days of guaranteed employment in a year is being provided to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. During the year 2009-10, (upto December, 2009) Central Share amounting to Rs. 331.78 crore and State share amounting to Rs. 26 crore has been credited to the account of '**State Employment Guarantee Fund**'. Funds to the tune of Rs. 352.68 crore has been utilized upto December, 2009. 180 lakh mandays have been generated by providing Employment to 3,93,083 households.

27. The State Government is implementing '**watershed development programme**' in the State. During the current financial year upto December, 2009 an expenditure of Rs. 325.51 crore has been incurred by the State Government under various watershed development programmes. The Govt. of India has sanctioned 36 new projects to all the districts of the State with total cost of Rs. 305.75 crore for treatment of 2,03,832 hectare rain fed area in the State within a project period varying from 4 to 7 years.

28. With a view to ensure total sanitation in the rural areas, '**Total Sanitation Campaign**' projects are being implemented in all the districts of the State. During the year, a sum of Rs.144 lakh was released as award money under '**Maharishi Balmiki Sampurna Swachhta Puraskar Yojna**' to the cleanest Gram Panchayats in the State. Under '**Mahila Mandal Protsahan Yojana**', Rs.95.50 lakh are being released to Mahila Mandals who have done excellent work for making their Village, Ward & Gram Panchayat Open Defecation Free(ODF) Status. With a view to boost the Campaign, my Government has launched '**School Sanitation Reward Scheme**' for cleanest Primary and Middle Government Schools with a provision of Rs.62 lakh for 2009-10. 253 Gram Panchayats of the State have

been awarded '**Nirmal Gram Puraskar**' by the Government of India, as against 245 of the previous year. Till 31st December 2009, out of total 3243 Gram Panchayats, 2097 Gram Panchayats (64%) have claimed Open Defecation Free Status.

29. The focus of the Government is on promoting appropriate environment friendly and sustainable industrialization of the State. Under the special package of incentives granted from 7.1.2003, approval to 995 medium/large scale , 11,654 small scale units with cumulative investment of Rs. 37,717.32 crore and employment to 4,43,159 persons have been given upto November, 2009. The Government has been making strenuous efforts to have this package extended till March, 2020 and the matter has been strongly taken up with Government of India at various levels. As a result of persistent efforts made by the State Government, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has also recommended the case for extension of the package till March, 2013. Focus is being laid on creating housing infrastructure and setting up of a Trade Centre at Baddi. The Baddi Barotiwala Nalagarh area alongwith Parwanoo is proposed to be included in the 'City Gas Distribution System'.

30. All out efforts are being made to fix definite time limit for delivery of services to public by the Government Departments. The Right to Information Act is being implemented in the State with the purpose of bringing transparency and accountability in the system. It is for the first time that Government has prepared State Training Policy 2009 for effective implementation of all government policies and programmes through Training Institutions. Government has launched an incentive scheme to those Government employees who have set high standards in public service.

31. My Government is ensuring supply of essential commodities at reasonable rates through a well maintained network of PDS system in the State. During the financial year 2009-10, foodgrains to the extent of 3,15,814 MT have been distributed under various schemes to the 15,79,330 ration card holders in the State till 31-12-2009. To provide relief to the consumers from food price inflations, the State Subsidy Scheme is being implemented and upto 3 dals, 2 edible oils and salt to all ration card holders are being provided. Under this scheme Rs. 110 crore subsidy has been provided by the State Government during the current financial year from its own sources. In order to check hoarding, sampling and inspections are being carried out regularly. During the current financial year, 16,065 inspections were carried out besides stamping and attestation of 3,08,535 measuring units.

32. My Government is committed for the welfare of Freedom Fighters and their families. Samman Rashi is being provided to 172 freedom fighters @ Rs.4000 per month and 819 widows and 10 unmarried daughters of deceased freedom fighters @ Rs.3000/- as against Rs. 2000/- being provided earlier for both the categories. The Government has provided 2% reservation to the wards of freedom fighters in the Government/Semi Government services.

33. Planned and systematic physical development of urban and rural areas is one of the primary concerns of my Government. With a view to give relief to people living in rural areas falling in Planning and Special Areas, the Government has exempted residents of these areas from applying for planning permissions under Town and Country Planning Act for residential and other allied activities upto prescribed limits. Work on development plans of Wagnaghat, additional area of Dharamshala and Parwanoo Planning Areas

have been initiated in addition to Special Area Development Plans of Manikaran, Ner-Chowk and Naggar. In view of the changing overall development scenario in the State, a new H.P. Town and Country Planning Bill has been prepared to replace the Act of 1977.

34. My Government is committed for the preservation, conservation and promotion of the rich cultural heritage of the State through various activities and schemes. Historical Gaiety Theatre has been completely renovated and opened for cultural & theatrical performances.

35. Cooperative is being promoted as a movement in the State as it envisages economic growth with social justice. Under the Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 a total benefit of Rs.211.50 crore has been provided to about 127190 farmers through co-operative credit structure in the State. Co-operative Banks in the State with strong deposit base of Rs.8524.50 crore, lending portfolio of Rs.3119.73 crore and profits of Rs.78.58 crore, are funding farmers under State Government sponsored ambitious projects like **'Pt. Deen Dyal Kisan Bagwan Samridhi Yojna'** and **'Doodh Ganga project'**.

36. For the welfare of workers, labour laws are being strictly enforced. In Himachal Pradesh about 93% workers are working in un-organized sector of which the building and other construction workers are one of the largest component. The State Government has framed and implemented the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Rules, 2008 for their welfare. Identity Cards have been issued to 2,09,711 workers and this process will continue in future also.

37. In order to ensure planned development of urban areas, grant of Rs. 41.77 crore has been provided to 49 Urban local Bodies (ULBs) in 2009-10 in consonance with the third State Finance Commission award . In addition, a special grant of Rs. 6 crore has also been provided for the maintenance of about 1000 KMs of roads, streets and paths falling under the jurisdiction of the ULB`s. To improve urban governance, infrastructure, service delivery mechanism and basic services to the urban poor, '**Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission**' (JNNURM) is being implemented for Shimla Town. Under the mission, six projects/schemes costing Rs. 12925.61 lakh have been approved for which execution work is in progress. In order to provide adequate shelter and basic infrastructure to the slum dwellers, the Government is providing housing facilities under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). Six projects have been approved by Govt. of India with a total cost of Rs.5533.89 lakh for Hamirpur, Dharamsala, Solan, Nalagarh, Baddi and Parwanoo towns. To improve living environment of Urban Slums, Rs.244.00 lakh has been provided to all the Urban Local Bodies for benefiting 3300 slum dweller families in the State.

38. My Government is ensuring effective revenue administration and all revenue cases are being disposed off expeditiously. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has amended the '**H.P. Land Revenue Act, 1954**' (Act No.6 of 1954). Naib Tehsildars have been empowered to hear and decide the partition cases, resulting in quick disposal of the partition cases and big relief to the general public. Three districts namely Hamirpur, Mandi and Sirmour have been selected under National Land Records Modernization Programme

(NLRMP) for computerization of land records/digitization of cadastral maps survey and settlement through modern techniques.

39. The State faced unprecedented drought affecting the Rabi crop of 2008-09 and Kharif crop of 2009. The State Government took numerous steps to mitigate the crisis. Total amount of Rs.5067 lakh including Rs. 779 lakh for Drinking water, Rs. 271 lakh for subsidy on fodder, Rs. 1417 lakh for installation of hand pumps, Rs.925 lakh for subsidy on agriculture inputs and Rs.1500 lakh to I & PH department, was released. The State Government also submitted a comprehensive memorandum to Government of India requesting for release of Rs.608.13 crore under NCCF. Government of India has sanctioned Rs.88.00 crore out of which Rs.14.48 crore stand released to the State recently. The Government is concerned with the tendency of encroachments on government land. In the last Monsoon Session of the Vidhan Sabha, the '**H.P. Land Revenue Act**' was suitably amended to dispose of encroachment cases within a time bound manner to check this menace.

40. Establishment of mega projects like Cement and Hydel projects invariably result in displacement of local population. The State Government is quite sensitive about the welfare of oustees and the effort of the State Government is to ensure that resettlement & rehabilitation of oustees is done in a most beneficial and humane manner. The government has formulated Model Rehabilitation Scheme for both hydel & cement projects based on National Rehabilitation Policy.

41. In Himachal Pradesh, Road Transport is the main mode of transportation as other means of transportation like rail network etc. are

negligible. The State Government has formulated a Transport Policy which is the main guiding document to provide better and safe transport services to the people of the State. Keeping in view the increasing trends of road accidents, the Government has recently constituted a permanent committee under the Chairpersonship of SDMs at sub-divisional level for in-depth study and analyzing road accidents and also to suggest remedial measures to curtail road accidents. Besides the Government also increased the compulsory training period of drivers of transport vehicles from 30 days to 60 days. 75 buses have been made available in Shimla Town under Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission to provide better transport facility to general public.

42. My Government has created a separate Sainik Welfare Department for the welfare of the Ex-Serviceman, serving soldiers, war widows and their dependents. During the current financial year, 65 Ex-Servicemen and dependents got re-employment / employment in the State /Central Services through H.P. Ex-Servicemen Employment Cell. Stipend/Scholarships are being paid to the wards of Ex-Servicemen from Classes VI to post graduate level and for the courses in professional colleges. The Himachal Pradesh Ex-Servicemen Corporation is providing interest subsidy and grants to Ex-Servicemen for starting their self employment ventures. The Corporation has sponsored and got disbursed Rs.71.36 lakh to ex-servicemen through banks for self employment programmes upto 31.12.2009. It has provided employment to 1837 Ex-Servicemen as security personnel in various industrial and public sector units in the State.

43. My Government is making concerted efforts to preserve the rich forest wealth and to further enrich it. The objective of the Government is to make Himachal Pradesh a Carbon Neutral State and reduce the green house

gas emission. A '**Bio-carbon Sub Project**' under the '**Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development**' has been prepared for achieving this objective. Sustained efforts of my Government have resulted in restoration of TD rights to the right holders. Blanket ban of felling of trees in private land has also been lifted as a result of sustained efforts of the State Government. My Government has benefited about 56000 villagers in Bilaspur district by allowing them ownership rights of the trees standing on their Khadyatar land. Felling of Khair trees in private land has now been allowed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court after persistent efforts of the State Government which will benefit large population of the State. Three monkey sterilization centers have been made operational in the State. 15100 monkeys have already been sterilized in these centres to minimize the monkey menace. In order to solve the problems of people residing in and around wild life sanctuaries, rationalization of sanctuaries has been initiated which will bring relief to about 1.14 lakh people by excluding 775 villages from wild life protected areas in the State.

44. The State Government is committed to maintain pristine environment of the State for which various initiatives have been taken. '**Environment Master Plan**' for the State is being formulated. To overcome the menace of Solid Waste and polythene, the Government has imposed a complete ban on polythene carry bags and zero tolerance is being adopted in this regard. Community Led Assessment, Awareness, Advocacy and Action Programme (CLAP) for Environment Protection and Carbon Neutrality was launched on 5th June 2009 in the State. This programme spread over a period of three years shall be operationalized through a network of NGOs, Schools, Eco-clubs, Mahila Mandals and Communities at Panchayat level in

collaboration with other stakeholders. **'Himachal Pradesh Environment Fund'** has been created with an objective of environment protection through voluntary efforts. Till date, an amount of Rs. 33 lakh has been deposited in the Fund. Himalayan Chief Ministers' Conclave was organised at Shimla to sensitize the Himalayan States towards the issue of melting of glaciers, climate change and livelihood of communities in Himalayan region. The **'Shimla Declaration'** was issued by the Chief Ministers pledging their commitment to uphold the environmental sanctity of the Himalayan region.

45. My Government is committed to the welfare of its employees. The Government has revised the pay scales of the State Govt. employees and pension of pensioners. The qualifying service for full pension has been lowered to 20 years from 33 years. Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for Regular, Adhoc, Contractual, Part-time and Daily waged employees of State Government Departments, Boards, Corporations and Universities has been implemented. The insurance cover of Rs.2.00 lakh on a nominal premium of Rs.50.00 per annum is available to the employees. The State Government has converted Part-Time Class-IV employees having completed ten years continuous service on 31st March, 2009 as daily wagers and the services of daily wagers having completed 8 years on 31st March,2009 have been regularized.

46. Tourism is a powerful and beneficial agent of social and economic change which in turn generates employment and investment. My Government has been able to get financial assistance under various circuits and destinations to the tune of Rs.2960 lakh from Government of India during the year 2009-10. Keeping in view the Himachal tradition of hospitality and providing a homely atmosphere of stay, culture cuisine, my Government has

initiated an innovative scheme named “**Home Stay**” and 182 home stay units have been registered up to December, 2009. A 20 year prospective Tourism Master Plan is being prepared in order to have a strategy for developing sustainable tourism in the State.

47. My Government is committed to modernize the State Police Force and make it more efficient, effective and people friendly. Greater emphasis is being laid on Community Policing, strengthening of Police Stations, Intelligence and Criminal Investigation machinery and improving housing and training facilities for the police personnel. The Central Government has earmarked a sum of Rs. 610 lakh for Modernization of Police Force for the year 2009-10, out of which a sum of Rs. 508 lakh has been released for providing additional vehicles and security equipments. The Government of India has sanctioned **6th IRB** for the State, which would be established at Kolar in district Sirmaur. The recruitment process for filling up of 1309 posts of constables in respect of **6th IRB** and other left out vacancies of IRBs has been started. This would increase the efficiency of the Police Force and would give job opportunities to the unemployed youth in the State. A Special Industrial Security Force is also proposed to be raised in the State, which would be equipped to deal with any Industrial Security requirements and to maintain law and order in the Industrial areas of the State.

48. Himachal Pradesh has progressed towards better Governance through the use of Information Technology and Communication tools and the same has been recognized at National Level. My Government has taken up various core initiatives like Himachal State Wide Area Network (HIMSWAN), Common Service Centres (CSCs), Short Message Service (SMS) Gateway, State Services Delivery Gateway, State Data Centre, etc. for

moving towards better e-governance. Departmental initiatives like Online Revenue Court Cases Monitoring, Online reservation of accommodation and buses in Tourism, pilot project for Smart Card based Pension Disbursement System in Una district, etc. have also been taken-up. The State Government has been awarded two National e-Governance awards for e-Gazette and HIMPOL (Himachal Police Online). HIMSWAN Connectivity has been provided in 950 offices across the State. For providing Government Services at the doorsteps of the citizens, 3366 Lokmitra Kendras are being set up at panchayat level. As an innovative IT initiative, SMS facility has been introduced in various Government to Citizen Services to intimate citizens about the status of their application through SMS alerts.

49. My Government is fully committed to harness available power potential in the Pradesh. Out of the total available hydel power potential of about 23000 MW, 6480 MW has already been harnessed by involving the agencies in Central, State, Joint and Private Sector. We hope to harness 15,000 MW of the total hydel potential by the end of 12th Plan. In order to ensure creation of adequate capacity in the State public sector, projects of 2070 MW capacity have been allotted to Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation and HPSEB during the year 2009-10. As a measure of our commitment towards local area development, the State Government has earmarked an additional 1% free power from the hydel power projects for local area development. 10% of the CAT PLAN is being given to local communities for taking steps to protect and improve the biodiversity of the given catchment area.

50. My Government is committed to provide clean, transparent and efficient administration to the common man at his doorstep. Quick

disposal of the public grievances is the priority of my government. Accordingly, the public grievances redressal mechanism has been strengthened. For on-line registration and prompt disposal of the public grievances, web-based special software has been operationalised in every department. For convenience of the general public, the government has introduced '**Prashasan Janata Ke Dwar Scheme**' under which the District and Sub Divisional level officers are holding grievance redressal camps at a focal point convenient for 4 to 5 adjoining Panchyats in rural areas.

51. Youth development and promotion of sports is one of the major objectives of my Government. In its endeavour to promote sports upto grass-root level, the State Government has taken in hand various schemes such as construction of play grounds/stadia, cash awards to outstanding sport persons, 3% reservation to outstanding persons in Government Job and liberal grant-in-aid to State Sport Associations. As many as 197 sports persons have been provided jobs under sports quota. Under cash award scheme, an amount of Rs. 10.92 lakh was awarded to 97 outstanding sportspersons during the year 2009-2010. During the current financial year, 324 Panchayats and 8 Blocks have been covered under '**Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan**' (PYKKA) and an amount of Rs.4.38 crores is being spent. The Government is giving special attention towards the youths of the Pradesh by involving them in Nation building programmes. Schemes like Nodal Club Yojna, Youth Leadership Training Programme, Youth Festival, Youth Work Camps and Youth Day are being successfully implemented and organized . Sufficient funds are also being made available by the Government for the implementation of NSS Scheme. Under this Scheme, a sum of Rs. 72 lakh has been spent by involving 71,500 students of School, Colleges and Universities

during the year 2009-2010. Rs. 693.22 lakh are being spent for the construction of stadia/ sports infrastructure in the State during current financial year and about 200 playfields are being constructed under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan with an amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh each. The State Government is giving special thrust to adventure sports.

52. I have briefly touched upon the achievement of my Government during this year. It will be our endeavour to continue our efforts to ensure all-round development of Himachal Pradesh. We have to secure the cooperation of each and every individual of the State, so that the ideals of peace, prosperity, social justice and development are achieved. We all have to think together, act together and move ahead together to achieve the objective of improving the social and economic lives of our people. Nature has blessed our State with immense resources and pristine beauty of mountains covered with snow and rich flora & fauna. We must put in our best efforts to jointly use the bounty of nature for the welfare and well being of our people. To this end, I expect that all the Hon'ble Members of this August House will rise to the occasion and participate meaningfully in the deliberations in the House. With the kind cooperation of all the Hon'ble Members of this August House, I am sure my Government will be able to lead the effort to transform the economy and living standard of the people of the State and make Himachal Pradesh not only the leading hill State of the country but one of the star performers of our country. **"Sabse Upar Himachal"**.

JAI HIND, JAI HIMACHAL