



Government of West Bengal

Budget Statement

by

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Minister of State (Independent Charge)
Finance Department

2022-2023

11th March, 2022

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with your permission, I rise to present the Annual Financial Statement for the financial year 2022-23 to this August House.

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“Ma, Mati, Manush” government has given to the people a sensitive, responsive and accountable governance with welfare agenda in the forefront under the steller leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Entire world has been passing through testing times in last two years. Our state was hit by twin disasters of Covid-19 pandemic along with super cyclone Yaas and floods causing large scale damage and destruction impacting lakhs of people. It is noteworthy that, under the able leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lakhs of people were moved to safety well before Yaas cyclone hit our state. In spite of financial hardships in wake of indifferent attitude of the central government, with the proactive efforts of the administrative machinery and sheer resilience of our people, we could overcome the impact of these disasters.

Sir, over the past few years we have simplified and streamlined revenue mobilization through extensive use of Information Technology and have yielded encouraging results, though last two years have been extremely challenging due to the pandemic. We are exploring and evolving new avenues to augment our state revenues.

Hon'ble Members are aware that, GST forms an important segment of our overall revenues which came into effect in July, 2017. The GST Act provides for compensation to States for five years for loss of revenue on account of implementation of GST, which ends in June, 2022. At a time when the five year period was decided, no one could envisage that the entire world will be hit by such a severe pandemic causing deadlock in every sphere of life and having such a devastating impact on the economy. As a result, GST revenue collection has not yet stabilized and still falls far short of the protected revenue. It is shocking that, the Union Government has so far refused to propose to GST Council an extension of this compensation to states for at least another three to five years. We have written repeatedly to Union Finance Ministry seeking such logical extension but to no avail, which is against the interest of the States and belies our federal polity.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

We urge the Union Government through this August House that the GST compensation period must be extended for at least another three to five years beyond June, 2022, to help all States tide over the financial stress triggered by the pandemic.

While the national economy dipped by negative 7.25 per cent (-7.25 %) in 2020-21, Bengal was the torch bearer with positive growth of 1.06% (+1.06%). In the current financial year, that is 2021-22(1st AE), West Bengal, all over again has managed to come to the fore. While the Indian Economy is expected to record a positive growth of 9.18%, mainly on account of the low base of the previous financial year, the West Bengal Economy is expected to grow at a faster rate of 12.82%. Unlike the central government's wrong and failed policy of supply side stimulation, our government with the foresight and prudent endeavour of our Hon'ble Chief Minister followed the demand side stimulation model by putting cash money in the hands of common people through digital platform, as has been done by developed and developing economies of the world.

We have consistently shown positive growth in government's spending for infrastructure development, social sector expenditure, agriculture and allied sector expenditure. We are back with hope and optimism.

While we continue with our welfare and livelihood support measures aimed towards empowerment of women and disadvantaged sections of the society including those from SC, ST and minority communities, we have taken up industrialization and employment creation for our youth as our priority with renewed vigour. We can foresee an era of glorious future for the people of our state.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The State, under the dynamic leadership and foresight of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee has taken unique initiative of reaching out to the door steps of the people through “Duare Sarkar” and “Paray Samadhan”. This has enhanced peoples’ access to government services and entitlements and is an example of our responsive and accountable governance. This has received overwhelming response and been applauded everywhere. Other states are now emulating Bengal’s unique programme — What Bengal is doing today others will be doing tomorrow.

In last “Duare Sarkar” campaign in August-September 2021 nearly 3.69 crore people visited through 1,04,435 camps organised across the state. Services for 18 schemes / programmes were provided through these

camps. More than 3.15 crore applications were received and more than 2.78 crore applicants were delivered various services.

The ongoing “Paray Samadhan” started from 1st February, 2022 and will continue upto 15th March, 2022. “Duare Sarkar” commenced from 15th February, and will continue upto 15th March, 2022. As in the past rounds, with proactive participation of all government officials and close monitoring, this will also be a great success in terms of meeting expectations and aspirations of the common people.

Led by Hon’ble Chief Minister, extensive health facilities to combat Covid-19 pandemic were created in the state and Vaccination has been carried out with great success. The State Government has already provided vaccination of more than 13 crore in the State which include more than 7 crore with 1st dose and 6 crore with 2nd dose. Around 17 lakh have been already given precaution dose after the required nine months of second dose.

Hon’ble Members, our visionary Chief Minister with her compassion for the poor and deprived have successfully implemented new schemes as per our commitment, viz Lakshmi Bhandar, Student’s Credit Card, Krishak Bandhu (New), Duare Ration and MAA Canteen.

So far 1.53 crore women of 25-60 years have benefited under Lakshmi Bhandar and nearly 20,000 students have been extended benefit under Student Credit Card scheme. Many other important ongoing schemes of the State Government like Maatir Shristi, Sabooj Sathi, Kanyashree, Rupashree, Sikshashree, Aikyashree, Jal Dharo Jal Bharo, Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana, Taruner Swapna, Social Pension (Tapasili Bandhu, Jai Johar, Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, Manabik), Khadya Sathi, Swasthya Sathi, etc. are also being implemented and running successfully.

A large number of infrastructure projects in Health, Roads & Bridges, Irrigation, Transport, etc. have been taken up and are ongoing. We are committed to provide tap water connection in each house hold by 2024 and work is in progress under “Jal Swapno” scheme.

As in the previous years, we are the front runner in 100 days work programme and 34.29 crore person days have been created in 2021-22 against a target of 22 crore. We have taken a target to form additional 2 lakh SHG including men SHGs. At present a total of 10.87 lakh SHGs are functioning in our State. Rural housing has remained our priority and we have so far completed 47.34 lakh houses under “Banglar Awaz Yojana”.

Matsyajeebi Credit Card, Artisan Credit Card, Weaver Credit Card are new initiatives launched by the State Government in the current Financial Year. Bangla Sahayata Kendras (BSKs) have now become vibrant in providing services to the people. 3,561 BSKs are operational and providing 268 services. More than 3.72 crore visitors have attended BSKs so far, more than 5.27 crore requests have been made and more than 5.16 crore services have been delivered.

Special efforts have been given for promotion of poultry and dairy. All egg requirements for the mid-day meal programme, MAA Canteen, Anganwadi Centres, etc. will be produced by poultry units and farmers of the State. Banglar Dairy has been started and milk procurement and processing are being enhanced through various interventions.

Land rights to the refugees and the landless has been our top priority. So far 3.86 lakh agriculture pattas, homestead pattas and free hold title deeds have been provided. Nearly 261 refugee colonies have so far been regularized and Free Hold Title Deeds (FHTDs) are being distributed to the residents.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Now let me give a brief account of initiatives taken for facilitation and promotion of industrial development in the state.

State Government has embarked upon an ambitious project to develop Deocha Pachami coal block, which is one of the largest coal blocks in the world and will provide energy to the rapid industrialization of the state besides bringing in huge employment opportunities in the mining sector per-se as well as in allied and ancillary establishments.

The proposed deep sea Tajpur Port a first of its kind in the state is another large infrastructure project conceived as long-term initiative for development of alternative sea ports and integration of port-rail-road infrastructure for creation of sustainable logistics infrastructure in the state. Over 1,000 acres of land has been identified for developing the Port Project. It will harness huge logistics potential, attract further investment in allied infrastructure and industrial development and provide employment opportunities to a large number of our youth.

‘Jungal Sundari Karmanagari’ in Purulia, state-of-the art Bengal Silicon Valley (BSV) in New Town Rajarhat are other emerging developments in the industry and ITES sector. I am glad to inform, as an example, the TCS, nation’s largest IT company has employed 50,000 IT professional in Bengal and may overtake Bengaluru

employment figure in years ahead. Another IT company Cognizant has employed 20,000 IT professionals in the State.

MSME units, power-looms and garmenting units including SHGs are being rejuvenated and mobilized. All the land of closed spinning mills in the State will be converted into Textile Parks to promote MSMEs in the textile sector and an Apparel Hub at Nungi in Maheshtala in South 24 Parganas district through public-private partnership (PPP) mode is being implemented.

The State Ethanol Production and Promotion Policy, State Data Centre policy, State Cycle Manufacturing Promotion Policy, have been notified to attract investment in these sectors.

State-aided Industrial Parks Scheme has been amended to make it attractive for investment for creation of private industrial parks for setting up of industrial units. “Shilpa Sathi”, a single window service has been strengthened to provide one stop solution to all industries and prospective investors.

Sand mining and major de-siltation and re-excavation work of water bodies has been taken up in a systematic and planned manner with application of Information Technology to ensure complete transparency. New Sand Mining Policy has been notified in this regard.

An integrated and interactive “Samannay Portal” has been developed to monitor the implementation and progress of all schemes/projects being implemented in the State under the State/Central sector and speedy resolution of inter-departmental issues. It is based on real time sharing of information about the issues among the departments/agencies for timely interventions and thus enhancing efficiency in administrative functioning.

Hon’ble Members, under the pragmatic leadership of our Chief Minister, Bengal has become the new destination for investments. To attract investment in the state, Global Business Summit (BGBS) will be held in April, 2022. A number of countries have shown considerable interest to participate in the destination Bengal initiative which has a high investment and business potential.

Hon’ble Members will be delighted and proud to know that UNESCO has added Durga Puja in Kolkata to its 2021 list of Intangible Cultural Heritage, giving international recognition to the biggest religious festival of the 331-year-old city and the state of West Bengal. This recognition is the result of continuous endeavour of our Hon’ble Chief Minister to universalize this unique festival.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would now like to place the proposed allocation of the major departments and Part-2 & 3 of the Speech may kindly be considered as read. With your permission, I will now directly go to Part-4 of my Speech at Page No. 144.

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Budget Allocation (Net) of Major Departments in the Financial year 2022-23.

1. Agricultural Marketing

I propose to allocate Rs. 403.30 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

2. Agriculture

I propose to allocate Rs. 9,310.20 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

3. Animal Resources Development

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,266.83 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

4. Backward Classes Welfare

I propose to allocate Rs. 2,178.82 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

5. Consumer Affairs

I propose to allocate Rs. 116.43 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

6. Co-operation

I propose to allocate Rs. 572.35 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

7. Correctional Administration

I propose to allocate Rs. 360.63 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

8. Disaster Management & Civil Defence

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,932.87 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

9. Environment

I propose to allocate Rs. 99.00 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

10. Fire and Emergency Services

I propose to allocate Rs. 448.54 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

11. Fisheries

I propose to allocate Rs. 488.74 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

12. Food and Supplies

I propose to allocate Rs. 9,056.77 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

13. Food Processing Industries and Horticulture

I propose to allocate Rs. 228.19 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

14. Forests

I propose to allocate Rs. 938.47 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

15. Health & Family Welfare

I propose to allocate Rs. 17,576.90 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

16. Higher Education

I propose to allocate Rs. 5,811.11 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

17. Home & Hill Affairs

I propose to allocate Rs. 12,557.01 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

18. Housing

I propose to allocate Rs. 271.09 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

19. Industry, Commerce & Enterprises

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,346.53 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

20. Information & Cultural Affairs

I propose to allocate Rs. 836.34 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

21. Information Technology & Electronics

I propose to allocate Rs. 241.07 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

22. Irrigation and Waterways

I propose to allocate Rs. 3,800.07 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

23. Judicial

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,208.79 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

24. Labour

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,094.91 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

25. Land & Land Reforms and Refugee Relief & Rehabilitation

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,460.13 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

26. Mass Education Extension and Library Services

I propose to allocate Rs. 387.40 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

27. Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textiles

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,159.99 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

28. Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education

I propose to allocate Rs. 5,004.05 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

29. Non-conventional & Renewable Energy Sources

I propose to allocate Rs. 75.50 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

30. North Bengal Development

I propose to allocate Rs. 797.43 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

31. Panchayats & Rural Development

I propose to allocate Rs. 25,181.83 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

32. Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs

I propose to allocate Rs. 693.56 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

33. Personnel & Administrative Reforms

I propose to allocate Rs. 370.77 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

34. Planning and Statistics

I propose to allocate Rs. 523.46 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

35. Power

I propose to allocate Rs. 2,838.87 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

36. Public Enterprises & Industrial Reconstruction

I propose to allocate Rs. 72.48 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

37. Public Health Engineering (PHE)

I propose to allocate Rs. 3,877.68 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

38. Public Works (PWD)

I propose to allocate Rs. 6,416.56 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

39. School Education

I propose to allocate Rs. 35,126.13 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

40. Science and Technology and Biotechnology

I propose to allocate Rs. 72.20 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

41. Self Help Group & Self Employment

I propose to allocate Rs. 720.84 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

42. Sunderban Affairs

I propose to allocate Rs. 587.45 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

43. Technical Education, Training and Skill Development

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,286.00 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

44. Tourism

I propose to allocate Rs. 467.95 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

45. Transport

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,788.14 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

46. Tribal Development

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,089.78 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

47. Urban Development and Municipal Affairs

I propose to allocate Rs. 12,818.99 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

48. Water Resources Investigation & Development

I propose to allocate Rs. 1,500.77 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

49. Women and Child Development & Social Welfare

I propose to allocate Rs. 19,238.27 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

50. Youth Services and Sports

I propose to allocate Rs. 749.81 crore to this department in the year 2022-23.

3

Achievements of Major Departments

Agriculture and Rural Economy

3.1 Agriculture

The scheme “Krishak Bandhu” was revamped and launched as “Krishak Bandhu (Natun)” thereby doubling the financial assistance to the farmers. Under the new scheme, every enrolled farmer gets financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 per annum for one acre or more of cultivable land. Farmers having less than one acre of land are eligible for assistance, on pro rata basis, subject to a minimum of Rs. 4,000 per annum per farmer. Assistance has been disbursed to 77.95 lakh number of beneficiaries in 2021-22 out of which Rs. 1,818.99 crore in Kharif and Rs. 2,216.10 crore in Rabi season have been disbursed as assistance to farmers under the scheme.

Under “Krishak Bandhu (Death Benefit)” scheme assistance has been given @ Rs. 2 lakh to the family members of 38,533 deceased farmers out of which 17,855 assistance have been given during 2021-22.

Under Farmers’ Old Age Pension Scheme, 86,523 farmers are being benefited with pension amounting Rs. 1,000 per month for each pensioner under “Jay Bangla” Scheme.

From Kharif Season 2019, the State Government has implemented Bangla Shasya Bima (BSB) Scheme, a fully State Government funded scheme for implementation of crop insurance in West Bengal. The farmers do not have to pay any premium except for Potato and Sugarcane in which they have to pay maximum up to 4.85 % of sum insured. From Kharif 2020 season the state is implementing technology based BSB Scheme wherein Remote Sensing, Satellite Imagery, Weather data and Ground Truthing (GT) are used to monitor crop health and claim assessment.

During 2021-22, an amount of Rs. 261.00 crore has been sanctioned as input subsidy assistance under “Duare Tran” Programme to provide assistance to the affected farmers of severe cyclonic Storm ‘YAAS’. The assistance has been provided to 18.05 lakh affected farmers through DBT. In addition to above fund, Government sanctioned Rs. 15.66 crore for immediate relief and draining out of stagnant saline water from cultivable land, raising community nursery for paddy and distribution of ‘Nona Swarna’ variety of paddy seeds and other inputs. Altogether, 2.3 lakh bigha land was cultivated under “Nona Swarna” paddy variety in the salinity affected areas with a production of approximately 2 lakh quintal of paddy worth of Rs. 40 crore approximately.

The State Government is laying emphasis on promotion of Micro Irrigation for optimum use and is providing additional top-up subsidy under “Bangla Krishi Sech Yojana” (BKSY) from 2018. 64,518 number of beneficiaries have been covered with coverage of 21,119 Ha up to December 2021 under BKSY.

To meet the demand for quality potato seed for the farmers of our state, a project on hi-tech potato seed production, involving tissue culture and aeroponics system has been started in the Potato and Maize Research Station, Anandapur, Paschim Medinipur. Recently the second tissue culture laboratory has started functioning in ZARS Krishnagar Nadia which is also acting as a nodal centre after Anandapur. About 130 MT hi-tech potato seed was distributed to our farmers this year under the brand name BANGASHREE.

A new State Development Scheme (SDS) has been launched to increase the area under Maize by 40,000 ha by the end of 2024-25.

The State Government has given thrust on farm mechanization since 2012-13. During 2020-21 Rs. 88.27 crore was utilized towards subsidized distribution of farm machinery among 21,177 number of beneficiaries through establishment of 234 nos. of Custom Hiring Centres (CHC).

During 2021-22, an expenditure of Rs.117.50 crore for Farm mechanization umbrella schemes has been made for OTA-SFI, FSSM and setting up of CHC schemes etc. with a provision of maximum subsidy for individual machinery upto Rs. 3 lakh and more emphasis on CHC scheme.

The centre of excellence at “Mati Tirtha Krishi Katha” ground, Purba Burdwan district was established for imparting training on modern Farm Machinery/ Implements.

Under land reclamation programme total 40,373 Ha of cultivable waste land has been brought under cultivation during last 9 years (2011-12 to 2020-21).

Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV) and Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya (UBKV), are helping the State Government to steer the state towards attaining sustainable food, nutritional, environmental and livelihood security through agricultural education, research and extension.

A comprehensive programme with production target of 2,000 MT raw silk including 38 MT of Bivoltine silk under Mulberry sector and about 40.25 MT silk in Non-Mulberry sector is under implementation.

3.2 Agricultural Marketing

For creation of marketing infrastructures such as Auction Platform, Stalls, Shop-cum-godown, Administrative building, Godown for procurement, Drinking water and Sanitation etc. Rs. 39.38 crore have been released till date from State budget core plan and RKVY-RAFTAR in financial year 2021-22.

The State Government introduced “SUFAL BANGLA” scheme in 2014 to ensure remunerative price to farmers and reasonable price to consumers. It presently operates with 63 mobile vans, 3 Hubs and 351 retail outlets across the state. Daily about 75-80 MT of agricultural produces amounting to Rs. 18 to 20 lakh are sold through Sufal Bangla outlets to serve about 2.4-2.6 lakh consumers daily. Till date 46 new stores have been opened during financial year 2021-22. During Covid 19, Sufal Bangla served people with the supply of vegetables at the doorsteps of consumers through its existing and newly opened stores in Kolkata and suburban areas. Annual turnover of SUFAL BANGLA is expected to touch Rs. 50 crore by the end of financial year 2021-22.

To safeguard the interest of the potato farmers the State Government declared transport subsidy on interstate trade and export of potato to the neighbouring

countries in financial year 2021-22 @ Rs. 50 per Quintal (for transportation by road) and Rs. 100 Per Quintal (for transportation by rail or ship).

To prevent post-harvest loss and to enhance farm level value addition, one time assistance is also provided through “AMAR FASAL AMAR CHATAL” @ 50% of the cost up to Rs. 21,714, for constructing a paddy processing yard (Chatal) for sun drying of par boiled paddy. In this scheme, 51,694 nos. of farmers have been benefited up to 2020-21. Around 468 nos. farmers would be benefited under this scheme with a total allotment of Rs. 63.88 lakh during the financial year 2021- 2022.

To minimize post-harvest loss, one time assistance is also being provided through “AMAR FASAL AMAR GOLA” @ Rs. 6,336 for constructing an improved individual low cost paddy and grain storage structures, and @ 50% of the cost up to Rs. 39,133 and Rs. 71,838 for Community Storage Structure and Onion Storage Structures respectively. 840 nos. farmers would be benefited under this scheme with a total allotment of Rs. 4.52 crore during the financial year 2021- 2022.

Draft Agricultural Export Policy (AEP) has been formulated with a vision to double the export quantity by 2030 by way of promoting the exports of fresh as well as processed agricultural, horticultural and animal based produce.

West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board has introduced online integrated electronic single platform permit (e-Permit) system for fast and hassle-free transactions of agricultural produce in West Bengal. Total 85,682 e-permits have been generated up to December, 2021 during 2021-22. Market fees are being collected through online system now and Rs. 25.09 crore has been collected through the e-Permit portal in financial year 2021-22 till December, 2021.

In the Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), the national electronic trading portal which creates a unified online market for agricultural commodities, both at State and National level. 18 markets from 15 districts of the State, have been integrated with e-NAM and proposal for integration of another 14 markets has been submitted. Volume of e-trading in West Bengal stands at 26,048 Metric Ton with value of Rs. 49.13 crore as on December, 2021.

During 2021-22, even in the pandemic situation, total 1,260 nos. trainees have been provided training at 42 different blocks of the state as well as at Netaji Subhash Training Institute of Agricultural Marketing at Baidyabati, Hooghly at a cost of Rs. 88.23 lakh on processing and preservation of vegetables.

This department has been declared as the nodal department for formation of 10,000 Farmers Producers Organisations (FPO). Work on identification of the crop clusters, required for implementation of the scheme has been started in all districts in collaboration with district administration.

3.3 Food Security : Food & Supplies

Since its inception, “Khadyasathi” scheme launched from January 2016, by the State Government, has been successful in meeting its objective to ensure food security to the marginalised and economically weaker sections of society by providing them sufficient quantity of highly subsidized good quality food grains. The scheme is being implemented through the vast network of about 500 distributors and over 20,000 Fair Price Shops. This widely acclaimed flagship programme at present, provides food security to about 10 crore Khadyasathi beneficiaries across the state.

The State Government has launched “Duare Ration” Programme, so that all the beneficiaries can get their entitled food grains at their doorsteps without travelling long distances to ration shops. This is helping the beneficiaries in getting hassle free services in transparent manner which also save their valuable time and cost of travel.

Responding to the need of migrant labourers, who had to return from their workplace during pandemic, food coupons were distributed to 45.89 lakh beneficiaries as one time relief. In addition to this, special packages over and above the existing entitlements are provided to 54 lakh beneficiaries belonging to those living in remote / interior areas such as, Aila affected blocks, Jungle Mahal area, Hill areas of Darjeeling district, unwilling farmers of Singur and all workers residing in tea garden areas.

For the migrant labourers and others who stay outside of their native place, portability of Ration Card has also been implemented. Through this facility, all Khadyasathi beneficiaries can get food grains from any Ration Shop within the State, if their Aadhaar is linked with the Digital Ration Card. Similarly, AAY and Primary Household (PHH) Ration Card holders can get their foodgrains from any Ration Shop within the country.

To meet the dual objective of preventing distress sale and also to provide rice to Khadyasathi beneficiaries through PDS, the Food and Supplies Department procures paddy from small and marginal farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP). During Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2020-21, the Department has procured 45.36 lakh MT paddy and 15.57 lakh farmers have been benefited. The paddy is being procured through 470

Government operated Centralised Procurement Centres (CPCs) and 1,214 Co-Operative Societies. Moreover, 81 Farmer Producer's Organisation and 498 Women Self Help Groups have also joined this programme. This year MSP has been increased from Rs. 1,868 to Rs. 1,940 per quintal. Payments are made to the farmers directly in their bank accounts within 3 (three) working days.

The total food grains storage capacity in the State was a meager 63,000 MT before 2011. The State Government has taken initiative for augmentation of storage capacity and has raised the currently available capacity to 10 lakh MT (including Kishan Mandi capacity of 1.63 LMT) in the State for storage of food grains till date.

Seven more godowns of capacity from 5,000 MT to 20,000 MT are being taken up for construction in the districts of (i) Malda-5,000 MT, (ii) Murshidabad-20,000 MT, (iii) Uttar Dinajpur-13,340 MT, (iv) Purulia-10,000 MT, (v) Bankura- 10,000 MT.

3.4 Food Processing Industries & Horticulture

West Bengal is one of the major producers of vegetables, fruits, spices, medicinal plants and flowers.

During the crop year 2021-22, more than Rs. 20 crore has been spent to expand the area of fruit orchards. More than 8,444 hectare of land has been planted with major

fruits like Mango, Guava, Lime, Sweet Orange, Mandarin Orange, Banana, Litchi etc., More than 1,004 hectare of land have been planted with minor fruits like Pomegranate, Ber, Custard apple, Sapota etc., More than 1,756 hectare of cashew nut and more than 3,123 hectare of coconut, more than 335 hectare of Exotic fruit.

During the crop year 2020-21, the State has recorded substantial increase in both area and production of horticultural crops, achieving coverage of 15,09,623 hectares under fruits, flowers, vegetables, spices and plantation crops.

Different innovative projects like Mushroom production, integrated soil moisture management through mulching, nutritional garden in schools etc. have been sponsored in different districts. Recognizing the importance of pack houses as an effective post harvest management infrastructure to increase the effectiveness of storage and shelf life of fruits and vegetables, Rs. 28 lakh was expended for construction of 14 numbers of farm level Pack Houses.

Development of “Centre of Excellence for Vegetables” at Chinsurah is currently ongoing and is expected to be completed within the financial year 2021-22.

Under “Duare Tran” Scheme, more than Rs. 2.96 crore was allotted to five districts viz. South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Howrah, Paschim Medinipur as assistance to betelvine farmers, whose Paan-Boroj were damaged due to the super cyclone ‘Yaas’.

During 2021-22, expansion of various Medicinal plants such as Cinchona, Ipecac, Rubber, Cardamom, Kiwi, Coffee, Chirata and Aromatic Plants have been taken up. 31,500 nos. of sapling of “Cymbidium Orchids” have been distributed to 63 numbers of farmers for their socio-economic upliftment.

Initiative for setting up of a State level Honey Processing Hub at Deganga Kishan Mandi, North 24 Parganas has been undertaken to speed up the growth of beekeeping industry in the State.

Training on “Ready to Eat” food preparation for ICDS project to SHG members under Anandadharaa are being conducted jointly with WBSRLM. Entrepreneurs are being guided for setting up of new units and expansion and modernization of food processing units.

3.5 Animal Resources Development

The annual egg production is expected to increase 14% from 1,050 crore in 2020-21 to about 1,203 crore in 2021-22, primarily due to enhanced distribution of chicks and ducklings to over 10 lakh beneficiaries.

The 'West Bengal Incentive Scheme-2017' for Commercial Layer Poultry and Poultry Breeding Farm has been extended for another one-year w.e.f. 01.09.2021. 68 Projects involving 31.16 lakh layer birds with an investment of about Rs. 269.93 crore have already been completed leading to production of an additional 79 crore eggs annually. Another 43 projects for 15.86 lakh layer birds with an investment of about Rs. 139.17 crore are under process. After completion of all the projects, 128.96 crore additional eggs will be produced annually. This will hugely reduce our dependence on import of eggs from other States. During 2021-22, there is target for distribution of 1 crore chicks and ducklings among 10 lakh beneficiaries.

During 2021-22, 'Broiler Integration Programme' involving farmers in and around Haringhata, Nadia as well as Phansidewa, Darjeeling has been successfully executed. A total of 422 numbers of farmers have been benefited from the programme.

During 2021-22, 31,000 number of goats have been distributed to SHGs.

During 2021-22, 800 number of heifers have been distributed among individual beneficiaries.

Vaccination has been done to over 2.69 crore livestock and poultry population during 2021-22.

During 2021-22, Kishan Credit Card (KCC) shall be provided to 1.07 lakh livestock and poultry farmers. Out of that 55,678 applications have been received and 51,749 applications have been sponsored to the Banks, 2,500 numbers of Livestock Farmers have already received loan.

116 Mobile Veterinary Clinics (MVC) have ensured that Animal Health Care Services are provided to 8.59 lakh livestock owners in remote areas of the State during this year.

Artificial insemination has already been performed for 32.72 lakh Cattle & Buffalo and 10.68 lakh calves were born through artificial insemination.

More than 37 lakh Frozen Semen Straw were produced from High Genetic Merit Bulls in the three Grade “A” Semen Stations of the State.

Free Artificial Insemination services at farmers doorstep have commenced since September, 2021. A total of 1.51 lakh of animals have been covered under the scheme. About 13,000 numbers of self employed AI workers and “Pranimitras” are getting performance incentive of Rs. 5,000 per month.

‘Banglar Dairy’ has become operational and milk & processed milk products, such as yogurt, ghee, paneer etc. are now available under the Banglar Dairy brand.

Eventually, the existing assets and liabilities of Mother Dairy, Kolkata will be transferred to Banglar Dairy Ltd.

The West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences has received World Bank Assistance Project through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for improvement of Dairy Technology.

During 2021-22, Rs. 3.18 crore was allotted from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in favour of four districts (Howrah, Purba Medinipur, North 24-Pgs. and South 24-Pgs.) to provide relief to 3,842 numbers of beneficiaries (who were affected due to super cyclone YAAS, 2021) under “Duare Tran” scheme.

3.6 Fisheries

During 2021-22, 13.16 lakh MT of fish and 26,925 million fish seeds have been produced in West Bengal as on December, 2021.

For increasing fish production, several piscicultural schemes are being implemented by the Department during the current financial year.

With a view to increasing productivity of fish, an intensive mode of pisciculture involving high stocking density of advanced fingerlings and good quality feed is in vogue in Moina Block of Purba Medinipur district. This model has been replicated in other areas of West Bengal

during the last few years and yield of more than 12 MT/ha/year has been achieved in this model.

Under Brackish water pisciculture, “Monoculture of Shrimp” in 1,020 ponds(136 ha-Rs. 2.02 crore), “Polyculture of Shrimp” in 810 ponds (108 ha-Rs. 2.69 crore) and “Monoculture of Vennamei Shrimp” in 780 ponds (104 ha- Rs. 2.77 crore) are being undertaken. During 2021-22, another scheme named “Swarna Matsya Yojana” under brackish water pisciculture is being taken up involving a total project cost of Rs. 16.83 crore.

All ponds excavated under “Jal Dharo Jal Bharo” scheme have been planned to be brought under scientific pisciculture and works for 73,500 numbers of such ponds (9,800 ha) with fund involvement of Rs. 39.72 crore have been taken up during 2021-22.

Pisciculture in 41,000 small water bodies (5,466.66 ha) with fund involvement of Rs. 20.91 crore has been taken up. The scheme “Production of Big Sized Fish in Big Waterbodies”(with a view to produce big sized fishes >2kg. per fish) in 40 waterbodies (40 ha) with fund involvement of Rs.1.54 crore is being implemented.

As part of air-breathing fish culture, scheme for nurturing of ‘Deshi Magur / Singhi’ in 1,175 numbers of ponds (156.66 ha) with fund involvement of Rs. 4.10 crore is being implemented.

For development of tribal fishermen, “Desi Magur Culture” (746 units: 99.46 ha.) and “IMC Culture” (932 units: 124.26 ha.) with fund involvement of Rs. 1.49 crore and Rs. 2.36 crore respectively have been undertaken.

Initiatives have been taken by the Department for introducing Bio-floc in the State and 29 numbers of Bio-floc units are being constructed with fund involvement of Rs. 1.20 crore.

3.7 Panchayats & Rural Development Department

Under MGNREGA, West Bengal could establish itself as a major contributor in the country. In 2021-22 financial year, the State could generate 30.13 crore person-days by December, 2021. Average person-days of employment provided per household in the current financial year is 42 days. In current financial year, works among 72 lakh households and 102.74 lakh workers were provided. New job card issued in this financial year is about 8.96 lakh.

In 2021-22 financial year till December, 2021, 27,789 number of water conservation and water harvesting structures and 1,332 number of Anganwadi centres have been completed. In the sector of individual beneficiary scheme, we could provide 40,704 number of livelihood enhancing assets.

To promote transparency, 100% Electronic Fund Management System is in place and all assets are now geo-tagged. Also, 99.8% wage payments are generated within 15 days.

Under “Banglar Awas Yojona”, during 2021-22 West Bengal has sanctioned 1,45,855 number of houses, at an expenditure of more than Rs. 4,118 crore. Majority of the sanctioned houses have received at least one or more instalments. West Bengal has sanctioned and completed the highest number of houses in the country since inception (2016-17). A total of 34, 57,163 number of houses have been sanctioned in the Rural Housing Scheme.

Under ‘Banglar Gramin Sadak Yojona-I (BGSY-I)’, 34,563.36 km of road length has been sanctioned under this programme involving Rs. 16,099.56 crore till December, 2021. Sanction for 20,106.78 km of road length has been obtained from the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India during 2011-12 to 2018-19 which in turn completes the allocation of Phase-I of Gramin Sadak Yojona (PMGSY-I). Under Phase-II of the programme, State has received allocation of 2,523.81 km of road length. Under this programme for the first time 10 numbers of long span bridges have been

completed in the State in this financial year and further 47 number of bridges are in the various stages of progress.

During 2021-22, under construction of new road and repair/ up-gradation of roads, more than 4,625 km has been constructed in the State at an expenditure of Rs. 604.30 crore as on December, 2021.

As BGSY-II awarding has been completed and BGSY-I has been completed more than 95%, the State has now become eligible for BGSY-III. The preparation work of BGSY-III is in full swing. Both BGSY-I & II will be completed by December, 2022.

Under 'Mission Nirmal Bangla', since 2012-13, 66,34,967 number of individual household latrines have been constructed in all Gram Panchayats of the State till December, 2021. All Gram Panchayats have been declared as "Open Defecation Free (ODF)" within this time. Around 6,257 number of public toilets have also been built. About 331 number of Gram Panchayats have taken initiative for Solid & Liquid Waste Management.

During 2021-22, so far 4, 89,677 number of individual household latrines have been constructed and 1,141 number of community sanitary complexes have been constructed so far.

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) provides social security in various forms to individuals belonging to BPL/Poor category. The State Government has decided to bring all existing pension schemes under one umbrella scheme for pensioners namely 'Jai Bangla Scheme, 2020' and the monthly pension has been increased to a uniform rate of Rs. 1,000 per month w.e.f. 01/04/2020, in case of the schemes where benefit was Rs. 400 or Rs. 600 per month.

Beneficiaries of all schemes are getting their pension within 10th day of every month. In case of National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), one time assistance of Rs. 40,000 is given to the family of deceased bread earner within age group of 18-60 years belonging to BPL family. Total 23,16,058 number of beneficiaries have been benefited from these schemes upto December, 2021, at an expenditure of Rs. 2,348 crore.

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode of payment has been adopted since November, 2021.

Under West Bengal State Rural Livelihood Mission (WBSRLM), 95.8 lakh women have been mobilized in 9,10,534 Self-Help Groups. 3,341 Sanghas have been promoted and 3,333 Sanghas are now registered as Multipurpose Primary Co-operative Societies under the West Bengal Co-operative Societies Act, 1961.

The WBSRLM extended financial support as Revolving Fund (RF) of Rs. 985.33 crore to 6,57,562 SHGs till December, 2021. Under Community Investment Fund (CIF), 3,279 Sanghas have been given Rs. 690.59 crore, which was extended as combined loans to 3,33,501 SHGs amounting to Rs. 1,545.61 crore till December, 2021.

During 2020-21, 9,54,954 SHGs were credit linked and they accessed Rs. 12,850.72 crore. As per the NRLM bank linkage portal, 7,92,255 SHGs have received loans outstanding to the tune of Rs. 12,357.54 crore as on December, 2021 thereby West Bengal being the fourth largest among all States in the country.

For promotion and marketing of SHG products in the state, ‘Srishtishree’, the Urban Haat for Rural Bengal, is operational at Dhakuria (Kolkata). “Saras Mela” is organized every year in Kolkata and Siliguri to facilitate the marketing of products of SHGs.

‘Anandadhara’ is constantly collaborating with the various line departments of the government. In convergence with School Education Department, 32,444 SHGs have provided schools uniforms to 63.94 lakh students and done business to the tune of Rs. 383.65 crore in 2020-21. In convergence with Women & Child Development Department, 68 “Ready To Eat (RTE)” food

production units have been identified for providing RTE Food to ICDS beneficiaries; the expected volume of business is Rs. 18 crore per year for these units.

In 2021-22, Rs.107.40 crore has been released under WBSRLM programme as State share and Rs.161.10 crore as Central share till December, 2021.

3.8 Irrigation & Waterways

To bring maximum area under irrigation and to give relief to the people of critically flood prone areas, 118 schemes, taken up in 2020-21 or prior, have been completed in 2021-22 (till December-2021) and the physical progress of ongoing 356 schemes are at par with the target in most of the cases even after suspension of some works in the initial months of spreading of Corona pandemic.

An additional area of 62,930 acre of cultivable land has been brought under irrigation during 2021-22 by completing renovation of medium and minor irrigation schemes in South Bengal and partially completing the renovation of Canal system of three major irrigation projects, namely Kangsabati Reservoir Project, Mayurakshi Reservoir Project and Midnapore Main Canal.

Supplementary Kharif Irrigation was provided to 21.20 lakh acre of cultivable area and sufficient water has been stored at the reservoirs to provide irrigation to

6.40 lakh acre of area in the ensuing Rabi-Boro season, through effective synchronization of reservoir operation in consultation with DVC (Damodar Valley Corporation) and CWC (Central Water Commission). The projected area under ensuing Rabi-Boro season is the highest in last five years.

Severe cyclone “Yaas” caused heavy damage in May, 2021 to flood protection infrastructure of 40 blocks in 6 districts. Moreover, due to unprecedented rainfall and release of heavy discharge from DVC dams in four phases, embankments, structures were severely damaged in different districts during the monsoon of 2021. Emergent restorations of such 724 K.M. of embankments, 302 appurtenant structures, 300 K.M. inspection road, 17 K.M. closures of breaches were completed in time. As a result further inundation during subsequent high tides could be avoided.

During 2021-22, 58 K.M. of flood and river eroding embankments have been improved and 273 K.M of drainage channels have been excavated. Like previous year, up-keep and maintenance of around 1,050 Kilometer of drainage channels were carried out during the monsoon of 2021.

Under the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank assisted “West Bengal Major Irrigation and Flood Management Project” which is being implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,015 crore, works of 5 packages (13 Contracts) in flood management sector area have been completed so far which involve raising and strengthening of 33 K.M. of embankment and dredging of river and drainage channel for a total length of 46 K.M. At present, flood management works of 5 packages (comprising of total 7 contracts at a cost of Rs. 759.18 crore) and irrigation infrastructure improvement of 6 packages (comprising of 17 contracts, at a cost of Rs. 623.62 crore) are ongoing. The project will be completed in December, 2025.

A number of reforms measures have been taken to enhance efficiency of works undertaken by the Department. The Design & Research wing has been equipped with latest software to carry out the design, drawing and planning works. DGPS/RTK based survey work has been made mandatory for estimation and pre & post work measurement to ensure transparency.

A special endeavour has been taken up to improve the drainage infrastructure in Kolkata and its adjoining areas including Howrah Municipal Corporation area. Survey work using latest technology has already been

completed for this purpose in 300 K.M. of channel length. Schemes for dredging, emerging from the survey work at around 250 K.M. of drainage channel, will be taken up with a target of completion before the next monsoon.

3.9 Water Resources Investigation & Development

Under 'Jal Dharo-Jal Bharo' during 2021-22, 33,216 water bodies/water detention structures have been created /renovated out of which 7,444 equivalent standard tanks by WRI&D Department and 25,772 water bodies have been created/renovated in convergence with P&RD Department up to December, 2021.

“Matir Shristi” was launched in May, 2020 to make productive use of fallow land in 6 (six) western Districts viz. Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram & Paschim Bardhaman.

Since inception in May, 2020 till December, 2021 under “Matir Shristi” Micro planning for 4,123 sites has been completed covering more than 19,000 acre, covering approximately 32,000 farmers. More than 36.91 lakh saplings of different species have been planted in about 3,210 sites covering 10,625 acre. Nearly 1,100 micro irrigation structures have been completed through Hapa/ pit/ tube well etc., and 646 sites have been covered under inter-cropping which has already generated income of

Rs. 1.09 crore to Self Help Groups. Fisheries have been taken up in 483 sites and more than 66.96 lakh person-days have been created through different activities under the programme.

Under 'Jalathirtha' Programme for increasing irrigation coverage and rain water conservation in the arid districts, Minor Irrigation schemes are being implemented. During this year, up to December, 2021, 120 schemes have been completed creating irrigation potential of 5,428 ha.

Under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) with financial assistance from NABARD, 818 Minor Irrigation schemes have been completed in this year up to December, 2021 creating irrigation potential of 15,285 ha.

Under West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP), 395 schemes have been completed in this financial year up to December, 2021 creating an additional irrigation potential of 2,898 hectare. 230 Water User Associations (WUAs), comprising 8,407 beneficiary families, have been formed for better management, operation and maintenance of minor irrigation schemes. Capacity building has been done

involving 30,689 trainees through 2,470 training of farmer programmes. Further 3,544 demonstration programmes involving 12,286 beneficiary families on Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries to introduce modern practices for improving productivity and income of the farmers have also been conducted.

In the quest for utilization of renewable resources, 323 Minor Irrigation schemes having Irrigation Potential of 3,054 hectares have been completed with solar power. Additionally, water use efficiency is being enhanced by promoting micro-irrigation schemes like Drip/ Sprinkler Irrigation. During this financial year, 88 Sprinkler Irrigation and 15 Drip Irrigation Schemes have been completed till December, 2021 creating Irrigation Potential of 290 hectares & 41 hectares respectively - all of which are solar power operated.

During 2021-22 up to December, 2021, 83.88 K.M. old, silted creek was renovated having Irrigation Potential (IP) of 4892.5 ha. This unique initiative has helped the local communities in many climate-resilient ways which include recharge of ground water, reduction ingress of saline water reduction of stream bank erosion and storm surge.

3.10 Co-operation

The Co-operative Movement in West Bengal is founded on effective framework of legislation and strong organizational network. Through a clientele of more than 81 lakh members in more than 29,000 cooperative societies, this sector is playing a commendable role in the area of agriculture, marketing, consumers, housing and service sector and has generated huge employment.

With an aim to increase the coverage, 42,092 new Farmer Members have been enrolled into different Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS). Crop Loan of more than Rs. 2,880.92 crore has been issued to 10.54 lakh farmer members. Total 12,54,682 number of “RuPay Kishan Cards” have been issued till December, 2021.

2,983 new SHGs have been formed raising the cumulative number of SHGs to 2,29,363. 3,86,769 number of SHG Members of 48,003 SHGs have been Credit Linked during the period raising the cumulative number to 16,54,465 Credit-linked members of 1,99,793 Credit-linked SHGs. Loan of Rs. 591.52 crore has been distributed to SHG Members during the current fiscal upto December, 2021.

Loan of Rs.7.95 crore has been distributed to 458 beneficiaries under “Karma Sathi” Prakalpa.

3,546 Students have been sanctioned loan under Student Credit Card scheme.

Initiative has been taken to establish Customer Service Points (CSP) in 2,631 PACS with an aim to provide financial services to the rural people particularly in the unbanked areas of the State. So far, 2,342 numbers of PACS have been assisted with Rs. 224.28 crore for the purpose.

Farm Machinery Hubs (Custom Hiring Centre) are being set up in different cooperative societies to increase agricultural yield by farm mechanisation. For the purpose, 379 cooperative societies have been assisted with Rs.125.60 crore. During KMS : 2020-21, total 18.60 lakh MT paddy was procured through cooperative societies.

Under RKVY, Construction of 45 Rural Storage Godown having capacity of 4,500 MT involving Rs. 8.10 crore has been completed during current financial year. Construction of another 20 Rural Storage Godowns having capacity of 2,000 MT is expected to be completed during current financial year. Farm Machinery Hub are being set up in 73 cooperative societies.

Under RIDF/WIF, out of 23 Storage Godowns, each having capacity of 10,000 MT involving Rs.240.20 crore,

construction of 11 Godowns has been completed during current financial year, construction of 25 Godowns having total capacity of 51,000 MT involving Rs. 82.16 crore is likely to be completed during next financial year. Further construction of 18 Godowns, each having capacity of 1,000 MT and 19 Seed Processing Units has been taken up.

3.11 Forests

Plantation of 15 crore mangroves and coastal shelter belt species in coastal areas in South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur has been undertaken to create a bio-shield for protection against natural disasters such as cyclonic thunder storms. Besides this 80.64 lakh saplings have been distributed to public through Decentralized People's Nurseries. This has raised 5,982 ha of plantation.

Under the flagship 'Sabujshree' scheme of the State Government, since inception 46.34 lakh saplings have been distributed to parents of newly born children till December, 2021.

Effective steps have been taken to control human-wildlife conflicts and wildlife straying into human habitations through formation of anti-depredation teams, deployment of well-equipped wildlife squads,

establishment of watch towers at strategic locations, deployment of Rapid Response Force and specially-equipped vehicles “Airawat” and installation of power-fencing in some of the forest-fringes. Compensation of Rs. 7.40 crore has been paid to the people for depredation by wild animals.

Over 1,496 camera traps have been set up in 748 locations in Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve to identify individual tigers through their stripe patterns as part of All India Tiger Estimation.

The population of captive-bred *Batagur baska* and Salt-water Crocodile have both increased. There is plan to release these two key species in the Sundarbans landscape in near future for wildlife conservation.

Under Jalatirtha Scheme, checkdams are being constructed on major rivers in the high water-deficient districts to improve soil-moisture regime. Till November, 2021, 118 projects have been commissioned in forest areas.

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) is meant to promote afforestation and regeneration activities as a way of compensating for forest land diverted to non-forest uses. 317.81 ha. of compensatory plantations have been raised.

Under JICA assisted West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project (WBFBCP) maintenance of 3100 ha older plantations, plantations of 79 lakh saplings and digitization of Forest Mouza Boundaries in Purulia district are being done.

The WB Forest Development Corporation Ltd. has conducted 804 numbers of e-auctions where 21,517 lots of harvested timber were sold for over Rs.122 crore.

West Bengal Zoo Authority (WBZA) has taken up translocation of surplus 30 nos. Chital Deer to forest areas and other zoos and construction of new Herbivore Enclosure, Veterinary Unit and Snow Leopard Enclosure under Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling.

Social Infrastructure

3.12 Health & Family Welfare

Expansion of health infrastructure and improvement of health services are priority for the State Government. There has been significant improvement in basic health parameters in the last ten years. Institutional Delivery has increased to 98.2 % in 2020-21 from 68.1% in 2011. Maternal Mortality Rate has come down to 98 per lakh in 2021 from 113 per lakh live birth in 2011. Infant Mortality Rate stands at 22 per 1000 live births from 34

in 2011, which is much below the national average of 32 in 2021. Against the estimated target, 96% of the children have been fully immunized in 2021. This number stood at 65% in 2011. In 2021 16,704 doctors including specialists, 66,983 nurses including 2nd ANM, 7,881 paramedical staff, 54,900 ASHAs are in place.

The Budget of the Department has substantially increased over the years to more than Rs.18,081 crore in 2021-2022 from Rs. 3,584 crore in 2010-11.

Covid-19 pandemic has posed one of the greatest challenges to the health services. However, this department has risen up to the challenge to tackle the situation effectively, thereby saving many lives, specifically during the 2nd surge. Altogether, Rs. 1,913 crore has been spent for prevention and management of Covid-19 since onset of the pandemic. In the financial year 2021-22, total Rs. 760 crore has been spent for Covid purpose upto December, 2021.

There has been marked improvement in health infrastructure in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The number of Covid beds in government hospitals which was 3,280 as on 01.04.2020 has gone up by 870% to 32,081. During the same period, the number of Covid CCU & HDU beds has increased to 4,200 from 387 which

is a rise of 950%, out of which 1,200 CCU & HDU beds have been earmarked for management of Paediatric Covid patients. For the Covid-affected neonatal cases 350 SNCU beds have been earmarked.

Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) plants have been set up for smooth oxygen supply at 28 hospitals out of which 16 are already functional. PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption) plants are also being installed at 77 Hospitals of which 68 have been commissioned. These initiatives will ensure seamless supply of oxygen to the Covid patients in our State.

Covid testing facility have been set up at 26 Govt. hospitals. Training on critical care management has been completed for 1,700 medical officer and 2,800 nursing staff. Sensitization of 57,000 ASHA & other frontline workers on handling paediatric Covid cases at community level have been completed. A Task Force on Paediatric Covid Management has been formed for proficient handling of any emergent situation for paediatric Covid care.

Apart from the above, arrangement for running 24x7 admission cell in each district, Tele-consultation, Telemedicine, Psychological Tele-consultation of Covid patients and their relatives have been put in place.

Free-of-cost ambulance services have been provided to the Covid patients for hospitalization. State Government has set up “Safe Homes” across the State for isolation and care of mild & asymptomatic Covid patients who cannot stay in home isolation. These safe homes are tagged with the nearest Covid hospitals, for better patient management and emergency services.

The State Government has designated five MCHs as “Centres of Excellence” for management of Paediatric Covid cases. 88 Government hospitals have been added as ‘Spokes’ with these Centres of Excellence, acting as ‘Hubs’, to provide better medical care and hand-holding support to doctors and nursing staff. More than 11.5 crore doses have already been administered which includes 6.8 crore first dose and 4.7 crore second dose. State has ensured the maximum coverage with minimum wastage.

The Department has taken up universalization of Swasthya Sathi Scheme successfully and more than 2.2 crore families have been enrolled as on 31st December 2021. Since inception, around 24.85 lakh beneficiaries have availed the treatment services under this flagship scheme amounting to Rs. 3,212.72 crore.

A unique initiative “Chokher Alo” has been launched on 4th January, 2021, aiming at ensuring universal “Eye Health for All”. The scheme essentially caters to cataract surgeries, refractive error correction and the other preventable blinding conditions starting from the newborn to the elderly people with a ‘life-cycle approach’.

There are 10,357 sub-centres, 273 RHs and 75 BPHCs in the State. In order to provide comprehensive primary health care services with special focus on Diabetes, Hypertension and other non-communicable diseases, Eye-ENT-Oral healthcare, care of the elderly & mental health, 5,200 sub-centres, 783 PHCs and 436 UPHCs have been up-graded as ‘Su-swasthya Kendra’ till date. At present, total 5,200 Community Health Officers (CHOs) are providing health care in Su-swasthya Kendras throughout the State. State has also taken initiative to increase number of sub-centre by another 4,600 over the period of next 5 years.

An innovative tele-medicine service, “Swasthya Ingit” have been launched in 2021 in 2,300 operational Suswasthya Kendras from where 13,12,125 consultations have been provided till December, 2021.

Fair Price Medicine Shops (FPMS) have been set up. At present, 117 FPMS are functional in the State.

Discount of 48-80% are offered on MRP of medicines and consumables, thereby greatly benefiting the patients. Since inception, discount of Rs. 2,169.68 crore have been availed under 731.93 lakh prescriptions.

High-end Fair Price Diagnostic Centers (FPDC) and Dialysis Centres have been established in Medical Colleges and secondary tier hospitals. 153 such units (18 MRI, 43 CT scan, 35 Digital X-rays, 13 Audio Vestibular Clinic, 1 PET Scan and 43 Dialysis Units) are functional in the State. Since inception, 1.24 crore patients have availed free services worth Rs. 863.99 crore.

The number of Medical Colleges in the state has increased to 26 in 2021-22 from 10 in 2011 which includes Government Medical Colleges & 8 Private Medical Colleges. 6 new Government Medical Colleges at Barasat, Arambagh, Jhargram, Tamluk, Uluberia and Jalpaiguri have already been approved and this would add 600 MBBS seats.

The number of Nursing Training Schools (NTS) has been increased to 169 in 2021-22, from 45 in 2011 and the number of College of Nursing has been increased to 99 in 2021-22 from 17 in 2011.

The State has 41 functional Super-Speciality Hospitals. 42nd unit at Belda in Paschim Medinipur is nearing completion.

Blood Bank facilities has been increased to 87 units in 2021-22 from 58 in 2011. Further, 33 BCSUs (Blood Component Separation Units) are functioning round the clock. Additionally, 55 Blood Storage Units (BSUs), linked with the nearest Blood Bank facility, are functioning.

47 Trauma Care Facilities (Level II & III) are functional in the State. SSKM hospital has functional Level-I Trauma Care Facility. 6 more trauma care units shall be made operational soon.

MoU has been signed with Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai for setting 'State of Art' Cancer Hubs at IPGMER, Kolkata and North Bengal Medical College, Siliguri.

AYUSH system of medication, being cost effective and beneficial for all age groups, has become significant in delivering health care. Much emphasis has been given for promotion of its different branches namely Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani and Yoga. A new 'Yoga & Naturopathy Degree College & Hospital' at Belur, Howrah has been established for offering BNYS (Bachelor of Naturopathy & Yogic Sciences) degree to 60 students per year. The OPD of this Hospital has been operationalized since November 2021. 271 "AYUSH Suswasthya Kendra" with herbal garden and Yoga facility have been established.

There are five State-run Mental Hospitals in the State with total bed capacity of 1,060. Apart from that, psychiatrists have been posted at District Hospitals to provide day care and IPD services to mentally ill persons. One 'Centre of Excellence' at Institute of Psychiatry, Kolkata is operational while work for another 'Centre of Excellence' on Mental Health is under construction at the Calcutta National Medical College & Hospital.

3.13 School Education

There has been consistent augmentation and improvement of infrastructure and human resources in the education sector aimed at ensuring quality education and retention of students. Since 2011, 7,085 new school buildings and 2,03,208 additional class rooms have been constructed to accommodate the growing number of students. In addition, 40,472 girls toilet, 24,001 boys toilet and 7,192 CWSN (Children With Special Need) toilets have been constructed. During the last 10½ years, the State Government has provided free school uniforms to more than 9.73 crore school children. Text Books are also provided to students from pre-primary to class-XII students, free of cost.

A one-time grant of Rs. 10,000 is given under the “Taruner Swapno” scheme to each student of class XII of the Govt./Govt. Aided/Sponsored schools and Madrasahs for purchasing tabs/smartphones for accessing the e-learning mode. For the year 2021-22, sanction has been accorded under this scheme for benefit of 8,72,536 students of the State.

During Covid pandemic, the School Education Department took the challenge with alternate means of education. Some of the important endeavour, include :— (i) Learning through activity task, (ii) e-learning, (iii) Banglar Shiksha classroom (through television), (iv) Programme video, (v) Model question papers, and (vi) Banglar Shiksha durabhase (through toll-free telephones).

West Bengal Career Portal, a dynamic website for career guidance, has been launched to enable students from 9th to 12th standard to get access to information regarding prospective career, higher studies, entrance examinations and scholarships.

Under the Mid-day-Meal program, 100% Government / Government Aided/Government Sponsored schools in the State have been covered. Currently more than 1.15 crore students are under its coverage. Dry ration is being distributed during the pandemic situation. Along with Mid-day Meal, mask and sanitizer/soap has been distributed free of cost to all students.

For accommodating more students and providing more learning space to them, 1,439 numbers of additional classrooms have been constructed, laboratory grant has been given to 423 numbers of schools in the current financial year 2021-22.

With the aim to bring all Secondary and Higher Secondary schools under the ICT @ School programme, 9,310 schools are being provided ICT support in this programme.

For the CWSN students, more than 16,000 Braille Books (for blind students) and large font books (for low vision students) have been distributed. Stipend has been provided to 53,698 CWSN girl students. 29,149 CWSN students at the Secondary and Higher Secondary level have been provided with Books and Stationery allowances.

West Bengal topped the ranking at national level among major states on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Index, as per the study done by NITI Aayog.

Banglar shiksha portal, the vibrant portal of the School Education Department, has received the Skoch Golden Award this year.

3.14 Higher Education

Fund allocation in Plan Budget for Higher Education has increased almost eight-folds in last 10 years from 120 crore in 2010-11 to Rs. 992 crore during 2021-22. The number of Universities in the State has been increased from 12 to 42 in last ten years out of which 31 are State Aided Universities and 11 are Private Universities.

There are 509 Govt. and Government Aided Colleges out of which 51 new Colleges have been established in last 10 years resulting in increase of enrolment in Higher Education from 13.24 lakh during 2010-11 to 21.61 lakh during 2020-21 academic session.

Fund allocation, during 2010-11, under Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme was Rs. 30.10 crore for 7,423 beneficiaries. During 2020-21, the Budget allocation was increased to Rs. 200.96 crore for 2,11,891 beneficiaries.

The Portal of Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme was opened on 16.11.2021 for on-line submission of applications by poor but meritorious students whose family income limit is upto Rs. 2.50 lakh per annum. Till date 6,19,554 students have applied online under the Scheme.

West Bengal Student Credit Card Scheme has been introduced since 30th June, 2021 for assistance in higher studies of students in the State, outside State and even abroad. Total no. of applications submitted by the students is 1,12,745. Out of which 1,07,899 applications have been forwarded to the banks. Total no. of loan applications sanctioned by banks is 20,000 till date involving loan amount Rs. 412.89 crore.

3.15 Technical Education and Training & Skill Development

Industry Resource and Placement Cell has been constituted in the department to take initiatives for expanding involvement of industry in curriculum design, industry guest faculty, internships, apprenticeship and placement across all the organs of the Department.

Under Utkarsh Bangla scheme, multiple employment linked training models have been introduced including Assured Placement Program, Industry-led training and Letter of Intent based training. Since inception, more than 23 lakh candidates have been trained under the scheme.

The Employers' Portal, a platform for Employers for hiring trained candidates under Utkarsh Bangla Scheme, Polytechnic, ITI and Vocational Training Centers has been

developed. There are 394 training providers imparting employment linked training in more than 329 job roles at 469 centres covering all the 23 districts of the State. 2,10,588 candidates have been trained including both institutional and non-institutional modes during 2021-22. A new career counselling app – Karma Disha based on proven psychological mapping of career interests has been launched and more than 40,000 candidates have benefited.

Infrastructure Development Cell has been introduced to plan the infrastructure and resource development for creating model institutions. 2 new Govt. Polytechnics at Mirik and Uluberia have started academic activities during the year 2021 with approval of AICTE. In June, 2011 only 26 subdivisions of the State had 65 Polytechnics [40 government and 25 self financed]. At present the total number of polytechnics stands at 185 [75 Govt., 3 Govt. sponsored, 2 Centrally funded & 105 self financed] covering 58 subdivisions of the state. Polytechnic intake capacity has increased to 39,340 in 2021-22 compared to 17,185 in June, 2011. Several courses in the emerging technical areas have been started in new Polytechnics. Websites and portals for all Government Polytechnics have been created as part of

the Comprehensive Institutional Development Plan. Construction works of 2 new Govt. polytechnics are going on—one at Damanpur, Alipurduar and at Dasnagar, Howrah which are likely to start functioning during the next session. The project ‘Improving Learning of English and Communication Skills in West Bengal Polytechnics’ is being carried out in collaboration with the British Council.

In ITIs, intake capacity has increased to 87,460 in 2021-22 compared to 17,636 in June, 2011. Construction of the Alo-Hub building has been completed. Training on LED Light Repair Technician has started. Workshops distribution will start soon. Apprenticeship Melas have been organised in 06 Govt. ITIs on 4th October, 2021. 84 numbers of industries and establishments have participated. 3,029 numbers of ITI pass-outs and 543 numbers of fresher candidates benefited from the same. 07 ITI trainees and 02 apprenticeship trainees from West Bengal topped in All India Trade Test (AITT)-2020 held in February, 2021.

During the Pandemic situation e-learning deliveries and methodologies were implemented successfully. 3,128 study materials have been uploaded in Council’s website. 1,069 ELMs have been uploaded in the dedicated

YouTube Channel “WBDVET”. All these ELMs are linked with the “Banglar Shiksha Portal” of the School Education Department. About 478 e-learning materials (in Bengali Language) under 09 trade courses of CTS have been developed and uploaded in the YouTube channel for the ITI students. 18 courses have been aligned to National Skill Qualification Framework Levels (NSQF) and introduced in the vocational system in the year 2021-22 academic sessions. 36 Vocational Subjects of HS Vocational course have been aligned to NSQF levels and introduced in HS vocational (2021-22).

3.16 Youth Services and Sports

The State Government has made significant investments in development of sports infrastructure in the form of setting up of Academies in various disciplines of sports such as Archery, Football, Tennis, Table Tennis etc. Investment has also been made for development of Stadium, Swimming Pool, Multigym, Mini Indoor Games / Recreation Complex, Play Ground etc.

To find out budding talents in the sphere of science and culture, Student Youth Science Fair and Student Youth Festival are organised every year with the participants from all over the state. As a part of involvement of youth in socio-cultural activities and for inculcating sense of team spirit, leadership and sacrifice,

Rakhi Bandhan Utsav, Vivek Chetana Utsav, Subhas Utsav and Mountaineering activities etc. are organised.

The State Government has also taken up upgradation work of Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Netaji Indoor Stadium, Rabindra Sarovar Stadium and Kishore Bharati Stadium.

Apart from these, Bengal Table Tennis Academy has been operationalised. Various grants have been provided to individuals and organizations for improvement of sports. The Annual Club Grant, Khel Samman as well as Grant to Coaching Camps are being given under the “Khelashree Scheme”.

3.17 Information & Cultural Affairs

More than 1.90 lakh folk artists are enrolled under the flagship scheme of Lok Prasar Prakalpa (LPP) and the Department has already released more than Rs. 179 crore as Retainer Fee, Pension and payments for Performance to those registered Folk Artists through Direct Benefit Transfer Mode during this year.

State Government has introduced Social Welfare Scheme for Purohits (SWSP) to provide monthly financial assistance @ Rs. 1,000 for lesser privileged Purohits and Priests of other communities like Christian, Jain, Buddhist and Parsi including the Tribal Purohits. 28,118 beneficiaries have been benefited with financial

assistance and about Rs. 25.32 crore has been released through Direct Benefit Transfer Mode during this year.

121 retired Journalists above 60 years of age are being provided monthly pension @ Rs. 2,500 under the “West Bengal Pension Scheme for the Journalists, 2018” through Direct Benefit Transfer Mode.

The Tele Academy Complex at Baruipur, South 24 Pgs. has been constructed on 10 acres of Govt. land, about Rs. 130.42 crore has so far been invested. The Commercial Unit of the Complex comprising four modern Shooting Floors with supporting areas along with Administrative Block is near completion and would be brought under operation shortly.

“Bangla Sangeet Mela” has become a platform to spread the message of unity through the rich cultural language and melody of Bengal. “Bangla Sangeet Mela” was held between 25th December, 2021 to 1st January, 2022 simultaneously at 11 venues located in various places of Kolkata and witnessed participation of about 6,000 artistes, musicians and anchors.

The 27th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) will be held with its usual hue and glory, with the expected participation of 42 countries and 161 numbers of films in different categories.

Under the Literary and Cultural Pension Scheme, financial assistance is provided to aged and financially weaker artistes. So far, 126 artists have been provided monthly financial assistance under the Scheme.

To infuse vitality into these cultural genres, the State Government provides one-time financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 each to 881 Jatra artistes and Rs. 50,000 each to 400 theatre groups.

The State Government has taken major initiatives to conserve the heritage sites of West Bengal. In the past year, not only the earlier conservation works are continued, but the State Government has also taken up seven new diverse projects meant for restoration and conservation. A few deserving special mentions are Buddhist Monastery at Jagjibanpur, Malda; Durga Temple at Bali Dewanganj, Goghat, Hooghly; Ruined Mosque, Bajua Santoshpur, Goghat, Hooghly; Gouripur House at Kalimpong.

Under the Medical Benefit Scheme for the cine and television artistes, technicians and workers, the State Government pays full premium for extending Group Health Insurance coverage for 7,355 Primary Members along with maximum five dependent family members of each Primary Member.

To provide continued support and encouragement for furthering of cultural heritage of Bengal, the State Government has conferred 'Biswa Bangla Sharad Samman' to different Puja organizers throughout the State. Other important awards such as 'Sangeet Mahasamman & Sangeet Samman', 'Shilpi Mahasamman & Shilpi Samman', 'Shanti Gopal & Tapan Kumar Puraskar', 'Bina Dasgupta Puraskar', were also conferred upon distinguished persons who have contributed significantly in the fields of literature, culture, fine arts, folk-arts.

3.18 Mass Education Extension & Library Services

For the betterment of inmates of Educational Homes, Library-cum- reading rooms have been set up at 6 State Welfare Homes and 1 Sponsored Welfare Home. Fund of Rs. 3.31 crore have been provided for repair & renovation of the existing infrastructure of Special Schools and Welfare Homes which have been damaged due to super cyclone "YAAS".

To strengthen infrastructural facilities of the Welfare Homes and Special Schools, Rs. 6 crore have been granted towards construction of toilets, repair, renovation of school building, hostel building, dormitories etc. 54 Tablet Computers have been distributed among the students of Class XII studying at Special Schools.

Scholarship in class IX and onwards has been awarded to the specially abled students who have scored atleast 40% marks in the last annual examination in the year 2021. Rs. 3.87 crore was disbursed towards scholarship of the 2,793 specially abled students.

International Literacy Day was observed on 8th September, 2021, at the State level in a special Covid situation maintaining all norms and the students who excelled in Madhyamik & Higher secondary examination were felicitated.

Physical Infrastructure

3.19 Public Health Engineering

'Jal Swapna' has been launched with a vision that every rural household shall have assured drinking water supply in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis by 2024 through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC). 15.72 lakh tap water connections have been provided which is the highest amongst all States for the year 2021-22. So far, a total of 30.42 lakh rural households have been provided with a tap connection.

All households in 30 GPs and 1,668 villages have been provided with a tap connection through Piped Water Supply. Under this program 53,430 Schools and

35,785 Anganwadi Centers have been provided with running water supply.

220 water testing laboratories are functioning in the State to monitor the quality of water being supplied to the rural population. 53 laboratories have been accredited/ recognised by 'National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories'. 1,900 youths have been trained as plumbers and fitters under the skill development programme of Utkarsha Bangla who would be involved in execution of projects under Jal Swapna. Training of ASHA is underway for testing of water quality using Field Test Kits.

Water Supply Project for Purulia is under implementation with the assistance of JICA at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 1,296.25 crore which will benefit a population of 6.32 lakh, on completion of project in June 2024. Another ADB assisted project is under implementation in districts of North & South 24 Parganas, Bankura and Purba Medinipur at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 2268.50 crore which will benefit a population of 24.11 lakh on completion of the project in December, 2024.

This department has been actively involved in providing drinking water to the people affected by natural calamities. 50 lakh drinking water bottles, 3.84 crore

drinking water pouches and 55 million litres of potable water through water tankers were distributed to the affected people in the aftermath of the super cyclone AMPHAN, YAAS, floods etc.

During Ganga Sagar Mela, 2021 infrastructural arrangements like temporary accommodation, safe drinking water supply and sanitation facilities and solid waste management have been made for the pilgrims.

3.20 Transport

Massive transport arrangement was made during the Covid situation and period of lock-down for movement of workers/labourers and common people. Huge number of STU buses were deployed for running essential services, for movement of health workers, police and others during the lock-down period.

In 2021-22, new Bus Terminus at Ruinan within Sabang Panchayat Samity and infrastructure development work at Jhargram bus terminus have been started by SBSTC. Setting up Depot cum workshop of NBSTC at Golai Bazar, Lebong Cart Road, Darjeeling and developmental works of Mathabhanga Depot in CoochBehar have been started by NBSTC. Redevelopment and integration works of depot at Salt

Lake Sector-V have been started by WBTC. Infrastructure development at Sarsuna, Khidderpur, Belghoria, Maniktala, Belgachhia, Nilgunge, Habra depot have been completed by WBTC. Further, initiatives have been taken for construction / modernization of other bus stands in West Bengal. Some of such notable bus stands are at Karunamoyee, Ward-46 & 53 in Kolkata, Dhupguri in Jalpaiguri etc. Rs.33.86 crore has been sanctioned in 2021-22, upto December, for TOIP and other infrastructural works.

In water transport sector in West Bengal, strategic importance has been given for up-gradation and modernization of ferry-ghats, implementation of SOP and other projects. 547 nos. of “Jalasathi” have already been engaged in 481 ferry-ghats for compliance of SOP by ghat operators and the ferry passengers.

In 2021-22, construction / developmental works of jetty at Itinda at Ghojadanga & Basirhat side, Taragunuia, Fatullapur, Dakhwineswar in North 24 Parganas, Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas, Hulorghat, Prachin Mayapur in Nadia, Nandigram in Purba Medinipur have been completed by WBTIDCL. Also, Rs. 88.12 crore have been sanctioned for construction / modernization works of inland water

transport including World Bank assisted projects. Some of such notable ferryghats/ jetties are Kendamari in Purba Medinipur, Metiaburuz in Kolkata, Monirampur, Halisahar in North 24-Parganas, Narayanpur, Falta, Burul, Raipur in South 24 Parganas etc.

Under the World Bank assisted project of ‘West Bengal Inland Water Transport Logistics and Spatial Development Project’, 29 new jetties, 22 new vessels will be constructed and 40 smart ticketing gates will be installed at ferry points.

‘Road Safety’ has become of paramount importance in the transport sector. In 2021-22 upto December, Rs. 4.13 crore has been released for road safety purpose to Police and other authorities for procurement of road safety equipment like traffic marking, wrecker van, high mast light, CCTV camera, commissioning of traffic signals and for general awareness of the commuters etc. Number of road accidents, deaths and injuries have been significantly reduced by way of introducing “Safe Drive Save Life” campaign.

With the objective to ensure clean environment and balanced eco-system to the citizens, project for conversion of existing State Transport Undertaking owned diesel buses to CNG fuelled buses has been

introduced and about 100 SBSTC owned buses & 300 WBTC owned buses are being converted to CNG.

Effective measures have been taken to enhance Ease of Doing Business. Contactless services are being provided for a number of services including Renewal of Driving License, issue of International Driving Permit, Transfer of Ownership of motor vehicle and registration of motor vehicle of Diplomatic Officer. As part of IT based interventions E-challans, Smart Card for driving license, Vehicle Location Tracking Devices for movement tracking of passenger transport vehicles and Remote Sensing Devices for vehicle emission checking are being introduced.

To balance the eco-system, the State Transport Corporation has already procured 80 electric buses under FAME-I and they are operational with huge success. The process of induction of 50 more electric buses under OPEX model of FAME-II scheme has started. State Government also endeavours to accept the grand challenge launched by CESL to further acquire 2,000 electric buses under OPEX model of FAME-II through West Bengal Transport Corporation. WBTC is also providing its depots to install charging infrastructure in a big way.

Regional Driving Training Centre and Automated Inspection and Certification Centre is under development at Behala motor vehicle office.

3.21 Public Works

To increase road connectivity and give more comfort to the commuters and vehicular traffic and to reduce fuel consumption, during the current financial year the State Government has widened & strengthened 134 km of roads to 2 lane with paved shoulder (i.e.10 metre carriageway width), 77 km of roads to 2 lane (i.e. 7 metre carriageway width), 123 km of road to Intermediate lane of carriageway width of 5.50 metre and strengthened 757 km of roads in different districts. 17 bridges and 1 ROB have been constructed and 106 old bridges have been rehabilitated.

During the current financial year 2021-22, the State Government has also completed the construction of bridge over river Chhariganga in the district of Nadia for replacement of old and dilapidated wooden bridge. This bridge provides all weather communication link for the local habitants and commercial vehicles. Bridge over Panchanoi in Matigara-Hill Cart Road in the district of Darjeeling has been completed to fulfil the long pending

demand of local inhabitants. Kamarkundu ROB in Hooghly has been completed for smooth, safe and uninterrupted movement of traffic.

A pedestrian underpass has been constructed at Lake Town crossing of K.N.I. Avenue (VIP road) to facilitate the pedestrian for crossing the VIP road smoothly and it has improved the safety of the road users.

Other important road projects which have been completed are : Saptagram-Tribeni-Kalna-Katwa now of length 102 km, Jamtala-Kishorimohanpur via Petkulch of length 31.95 km and Amtala-Baruipur of length 15.53 km in the district of South 24 Parganas, Lower Bagjola Canal Road of length 28.53 km in North 24 Parganas, Kalaberia-Pirakata-Dhansole-Lalgarh of length 12 km and Keshpur-Chandrakona Town of length 21.25 km in Paschim Medinipur, Gangajalghati to Enayetpur of length 16 km in Bankura, Bagnan-Sirakol-Kamalpur of length 20.60 km and Bagnan-Mankur of length 9.01 km in Howrah, Gobardhanpur-Itaberia of length 14.83 km in Purba Medinipur and Eastern Bypass of length 10.28 km in the district of Darjeeling.

The Department has so far completed construction works relating to 667 cremation grounds under 'Baitarani

Scheme” in the rural areas and out of these 100 were completed in 2020-21 and 26 have been completed in 2021-22 upto 31st December, 2021.

The work of repair/replacement of the existing old bridges, as per requirement, are being carried out after their health monitoring. 250 such bridges have already been repaired/replaced by the Department.

Some major projects going on in full swing include re-construction of Tallah ROB in the district of Kolkata to replace old dilapidated existing ROB, construction of bridge over river Ajoy to connect Kenduli in Birbhum with Shibpur in Paschim Bardhaman, construction of Gajoldoba Hub Bridge of ‘Gajoldoba Tourism Hub Project’ in the district of Jalpaiguri, 6 lane Extra-dosed Cable-stayed Bridge over river Hooghly beside existing Iswar Gupta Setu at Kalyani, construction of ROB at Bansberia, 4-Laning construction work of existing road corridor connecting Mogra in Hooghly District with Barajaguli in Nadia District covering 21 kms of length, construction of 6-Lane Elevated Connector between Belghoria Expressway and Kalyani Expressway, widening of Kalyani Expressway to 4/ 6 lane covering 35.34 km in the districts of North 24 Parganas, 4-Laning of Champadanga – Pursura – Arambagh Road in the district of Hooghly, Widening & strengthening of Panskura-

Ghatal Road in the district of Paschim and Purba Medinipur, 4-Laning of Bongaon - Chakdaha Road in North 24 Parganas and Nadia and Construction of 2,400 seated Indoor Auditorium at Alipore (Dhana Dhanya Project).

3.22 Land & Land Reforms and Refugee Relief & Rehabilitation

With an intent to harmonize and consolidate citizen services, the Government has put special emphasis on quick disposal of mutation and conversion cases. Till 31 December, 2021, 68,81,490 numbers of mutation cases have been disposed and 1,10,509 numbers of conversion cases have been cleared.

The Government has decided to regularize all refugee establishments & colonies and provide “Free Hold Title Deeds” to the legitimate persons and to ensure the sustainable development of infrastructural facilities at the RR colonies. Beside this, a large number of poor families have been staying in state government land for decades. The Government has taken initiative to regularize their occupancy by issuing, “Nijo Griho Nijo Bhumi” (NGNB) patta and LTS on as is where is basis.

The Government has been consistently following the principle of “No forceful acquisition of land and no forceful

eviction of people from their land”. Land is being made available for Government projects by following the Land Purchase Policy which is based on consent of the land owner and mutually agreed compensation and a transparent process.

To give financial relief to the people for nonpayment of land revenue due to Covid pandemic, interest payable on the arrear land revenue @ 6.25% has been waived for 1426 BS, if paid by 30.06.2021.

The website of the Department has been restructured and made user friendly. A vibrant mobile application “Jomir Tothya” has also been launched to enable easy access of basic land related details and information. The e-bhuchitra application has found immense utility amongst the user groups and is one of the most popular and accessed application which is evident from document published by MeitY, GOI, where number of e-Transactions under land revenue of West Bengal is 80,76,21,255 (Source : <http://etaal.gov.in>) out of total 125,22,64,950_ documents searched during financial year 2021-22.

3.23 Power

During the current financial year 3.74 lakh new service connections effected taking the total consumer base to 211 lakhs. 5,842 numbers of Agricultural Pump

Sets have been energized. Total 130 nos. new 33/11 KV substations have been commissioned under Sech Bandhu/Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS). Electrification in 14 un-electrified villages in Sundarban area of South 24 Parganas District have been completed under DDUGJY.

7 numbers of 33/11 KV Sub-Station(s) have been commissioned with capacity of around 67.8 MVA during financial year 2021-22. Capacity addition of 5 numbers of existing 33/11 KV Sub-Stations have been done with additional capacity of 18.9 MVA to cater additional load demand in financial year 2021-22.

Drawal of additional 150 CKM of the LT AB Cable to arrest accident as well as commercial loss in financial year 2021-22. 31 numbers of more ATP [Any Time Payment] Collection Kiosks at Customer Service Centres (CSCs) have been installed during the financial year 2021-22 to enable consumers to pay bills in odd hours & during holidays.

Successful evacuation of power done at KMRCL [Metro Rail] with drawal of 8.5 KM 33 KV Double Circuit [micro-tunneling] from KMRCL premises [at Howrah Rail Station] to Danesh Sk. Lane, Howrah and 220 KV Sub-station to

cater power to prestigious East-West Metro Project and also meeting the power demand at underground metro tunnel through the river bed of Ganges.

To cover all 33/11 KV Sub-Station under checking through “Condition based Monitoring” twice in a year for ensuring uninterrupted power supply.

WBSEDCL has implemented billing of Bulk Consumers through AMR using MDAS for 10,893 numbers of live meters.

132/33 KV GIS with 150 MVA transformation capacity at Purba Burdwan have been commissioned. Consumers of entire District and its adjoining areas will be benefited from this Substation. Total 594.88 MVA Transformation Capacity augmentation and 33.056 CKM Transmission Line has been added during this period.

WBPDCCL is expecting to achieve a generation of 32,724 MU in 2021-22 which will be 37% higher than the generation of 23,874 MU in 2020-21.

Average Plant Load Factor of the Thermal Power stations of WBPDCCL is 69.36% which is higher than other generating companies from April to November, 2021 (NTPC 69.31%, Central Sector 68.11%, State Sector 50.80%). Santaldih TPS ranked number-1 on all India Plant load factor (92.79%) basis out of all thermal power plants in India for the period from April to August, 2021.

Santaldih is the winner of 22nd National Award for Excellence in Energy Management 2021 from “Confederation of Indian Industry” (CII).

After operationalization of all the coal blocks, the dependence on Coal India Supplies has reduced considerably and the contribution of captive mines of WBPDCCL is now almost 62% of its total consumption.

Trans Damodar Coal Mine of DPL has started its mining activities and 3,14,120 MT coal has been produced. The Deocha-Pachami-Dewanganj-Harinsingha, a green field coal block mining project with 1.2 billion metric tonnes of coal has been initiated. The R & R package with a projected cost of Rs. 10,000 crore for this coal block has been approved. Once operationalized, the Coal Block will transform the economy of not just the region but the entire State and beyond.

3.24 Urban Development & Municipal affairs

The main focus of this Department is sustainable urban development with emphasis on environment related issues viz setting up of STPs, installation of air quality monitoring stations and solid waste management plants.

Major steps have been taken so far during this year are scientific management of Municipal Solid Waste

across all 125 Urban Local Bodies in 2,938 Wards of West Bengal including 43 Ganga Towns. 94 lakh coloured Bins have been delivered to the households for segregation of bio-degradable and non-bio-degradable waste, engaging 5,285 members of the women Self Help Groups (SHGs) as 'Nirmal Sathis' for community mobilization. 97% of the total house to house collection of municipal solid waste has been ensured across all ULBs. 39,752 Nirmal Bandhus (Conservancy Workers) are engaged to reach the door steps of almost 58 lakh households. Bio-mining and bio-remediation of the legacy waste at 78 dump sites are in progress for land reclamation.

STPs have been made fully functional at Bhatpara (60MLD), Kalyani (20MLD), Gayeshpur, Bugde Budge (60MLD), Barrackpore (24MLD), Halisahar (16MLD). Rejuvenation of existing 15 STPs with 257 MLD capacity within North 24 Parganas, Hooghly and Howrah districts has been taken up. New construction of STPs has been taken up at Nabadwip (10 MLD), Kanchrapara (18 MLD), Beharampur (3.5 MLD), Jangipur (13 MLD). Development of urban green space, conservation of water bodies, installation of energy efficient street luminaires are some of the environment friendly initiatives taken up.

Construction of environment friendly nature park at Lataguri at the cost of Rs. 9.2 crore is going on in full swing. Mohabani Development Authority has been constituted in Paschim Medinipur during this year to promote eco-friendly tourism and agri-based industries within the planning area.

The State Government has developed huge water supply network across the urban areas of the state and is committed to cover hundred per cent households with pipe water supply by 2023. During this year construction of additional 20 MGD Water Treatment Plant has been taken up under Jai Hind Jal Prakalpa at the cost of Rs. 122 crore at Dhapa in Kolkata.

Various initiatives have been taken for development of religious places to promote religious tourism. Some of the major projects in this bracket are development and renovation of Kalighat Temple Complex, rejuvenation of 'Dudh Pukur' at Tarakeshwar, renovation of Furfura Sharif (main mazar), environmental upgradation of Tarapith Temple Complex, construction of 'Theme park' in front of "Natmandir of Kapil Muni Ashram" at Ganga Sagar. Another scheme at Suratheswar Tala has been taken up to promote religious tourism in proposed 'Satipith Circuit'.

Major e-Governance initiatives have been taken up to provide hassle free citizen-centric services. Integrated State-wide Geographical Information System and Citizens' portal, for online Single Window System for issuance of Building Plan Approval by the ULBs (e-Grihanaksha) has been implemented.

To provide subsidized, nutritious meals to the needy section of the society 'Maa' canteen is functioning across all the ULBs at 231 centres with a budget provision of Rs. 115 crore and on an average 48,000 persons are getting meal per day.

3.25 Housing

Under the "CHA SUNDARI" Housing Scheme, for providing housing facilities to the permanent tea garden workers who do not possess pucca houses of their own due to poor economic condition, works have been started for 1171 dwelling units in 4 sites during 2021 at Dheklapara, Mujnai, Toorsa and Manabari.

Under the NIJASHREE Housing Scheme, which is aimed to provide housing among the families belonging to Lower Income Group (LIG) and Middle Income Group (MIG) categories, construction work has been completed

at 2 sites at Narampur-Medinipur and Kharagpur-Inda. Possession letters have also been issued in these two sites and works are going on at 7 more sites at (i) Ashokenagar-North 24 Parganas, (ii) Durgapur-Fuljhore, (iii) Asansol-Gobindapur, (iv) Kalyani-Nadia, (v) Haldia-Basudebpur, (vi) Bankura Sadar and (vii) Bishnupur-Bankura.

For the benefit of patient parties, construction of Night Shelters have been completed in 6 sites during 2021 and construction of 8 Night Shelters are going on at present.

Under KARMANJALI, Working Women's Hostels (WWH) are being constructed, to provide accommodation on low rent basis to the working women who are single and have no residence in the city in which the concerned WWH is situated. Construction works have been completed at 3 sites during 2021 at Medinipur (48 bedded), Haldia (48 bedded) and Sagar (60 bedded) and construction work is going on at Contai (70 bedded).

Construction works for RHEs for State Government Employees have been completed at 3 sites during 2021 at Alipurduar Court Rice Mill (32 flats : B & C Type),

Karnajora (12 flats) and Buniadpur (vertical extension : 12 flats). Construction works have been commenced at 3 sites during 2021 at (i) Toofanganj (8 flats), (ii) Arambagh (8 flats) and (iii) Milanpally-Siliguri (8 flats). Works are going on at 7 other sites at (i) Diamond Harbour (16 flats), (ii) Nimtouri (96 flats), (iii) Kalimpong (8 flats), (iv) Bachurdoba (72 flats), (v) Contai (48 flats), (vi) Alipurduar Town (Court Rice Mill A & D type 32 flats), (vii) Ranchi Road (32 flats).

The State Government is constructing “PATHASATHI” (Roadside motel having Toilet, Bathroom, Dormitory, Restaurant and Car parking facilities) in each 50 km of National Highways, State Highway and other important roads for the benefit of common people travelling by road. 70 “PATHASATHI”s have been completed and are operational at present.

Housing Department was entrusted to construct flats for Rehabilitation programme for Fire & Subsidence affected people of Raniganj Coalfield Area. The present scope of work is for construction of 11,072 flats out of which works started for 8,816 flats. 160 flats have been handed over to “ADDA” after completion.

3.26 Non-conventional & Renewable Energy Sources

WBREDA and WBGEDCL are the two implementing wings of the department and have been implementing major schemes. Bhajanghat 10MW ground mounted Solar PV Power Plant has been made operational since March' 2021 and is feeding power to grid of WBSEDCL. Upto 31 December, 2021, 10.15MU (Million Unit) of power have been generated and supplied to the WBSEDCL. Total cost of the project is Rs. 50.08 crore. A project proposal worth Rs. 46.44 crore for installation of Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plant onrooftops of 990 schools has been undertaken with WBREDA during 2020-21. Rooftop grid connected Solar Power Plants in 169 Schools have been installed in 2020-21. Work is currently under progress in an additional 100 schools and are expected to be completed by 31 March, 2022. Under Aloshee Phase - II programme, work for installation of Rooftop Solar plants in 9 Institutions with cumulative capacity of 1,340 KWp has been taken up. Work is expected to be completed by March, 2022. Installation of GRTSPV Power Plant at 7 buildings at Akhanka Housing Complex, New Town is continuing and is expected to be completed by January, 2022.

The Department has extended its support for a total of 22 Solar Powered Irrigation Pumps for tube wells of SHG families in Manbazar – I Development Block, Purulia. The cost of boring of tube wells was borne by the beneficiaries.

Social Empowerment

3.27 Women and Child Development and Social Welfare

“Lakshmir Bhandar”, one of the largest social protection schemes aimed at financial empowerment of women, has been launched since August, 2021. All women aged 25-60 years in West Bengal, who are enrolled in ‘Swasthya Sathi’, are entitled to receive the scheme’s benefits, except for women who are drawing a salary or a pension from the government. While women from SC/ST households are entitled to Rs. 1,000 every month, other women are entitled to Rs. 500 per month. The scheme was opened to the public during the “Duare Sarkar” outreach campaign in August–September, 2021. As on 31.12.2021, of the 1.64 crore applications received, 1.53 crore have been approved and more than Rs. 3,456 crore disbursed.

Under the Anganwadi Services Scheme, 73.91 lakh children up to 6 years of age, and 15.37 lakh pregnant

and lactating mothers regularly received take-home-rations at their doors-steps every month in 2021-22, to ensure that there was no disruption in the Supplementary Nutrition Programme.

Under Child Protection Services, the State Government has housed 3,858 children in 19 government-run and 52 NGO run Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in 2021-22. Of these, 21 homes are for Children with special needs.

Three Government-run and 21 NGO run Specialized Adoption Agencies (SAAs) are operational in the State. In 2021-22, 207 adoptions were facilitated, of which 184 were in-country adoptions, and 23 inter-country adoptions. 864 children were placed in sponsorships, of which 678 were preventive and 186 were rehabilitative.

The State Government's flagship "Kanyashree Prakalpa" is now in its ninth year of implementation, and has covered more than 75 lakh adolescent girls between the ages of 13-19 years. In the year 2021-22 so far, under "Kanyashree Prakalpa" 22,79,002 Annual Scholarships (K1) of Rs. 1,000 each and 5,25,632 One-Time Grants (K2) of Rs. 25,000 each were disbursed.

Under "Rupashree Prakalpa", financial support of Rs. 25,000 per head for indigent women to cover the

expenses of their marriage, was provided to 2.11 lakh beneficiaries in 2021-22.

Social security pensions at the rate of Rs. 1,000 monthly have been provided to 6,80,564 beneficiaries under the Widow Pension Scheme and to 16,89,657 beneficiaries under the Old Age Pension Scheme.

Under Manabik Pension Scheme for persons with disability of 40% or more, more than Rs. 373 crore was disbursed to 4,85,000 beneficiaries.

3.28 Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education

During 2021-22 so far more than Rs.1,239 crore has been released for development and welfare of Minorities in West Bengal specially for implementation of various schemes.

The Aikyashree scholarship scheme was launched in the year 2019-20. In 2021-22 more than 53 lakh applications have been received so far and more than 12.47 lakh scholarships has been disbursed this year.

To provide opportunity for self employment, Term Loan and DLS (Micro Finance) are being provided to individual entrepreneurs and Self Help Groups. Soft Loans were sanctioned to around 67,500 beneficiaries during the current financial year.

To impart Madrasah education through a modern and updated mode of teaching, 600 Smart Class Rooms have

been set up and e-books have been made available in 300 Madrasahs in two phases. Computer Laboratories are being set up in 115 madrasahs to improve the students' computer skills and to render them more employment. Free books are provided to all the students of Government aided Madrasahs, MSKs and SSKs. Besides, School Dress, Bag and Shoes are provided to all students of Class I to VIII of all Government aided Madrasahs, MSKs and SSKs.

There are 3 types of schemes / projects under Infrastructure Development in Minority Concentrated Areas category viz MsDP, IMDP and MDW. Under MsDP, Rs. 17.26 crore has been released in the current financial year. Rs. 14.58 crore has been released till date during 2021-22 under IMDP scheme to 32 blocks in 14 Districts. Whereas, under MDW scheme, more than Rs. 87 crore has been released for various schemes in different blocks across all the 23 Districts of West Bengal.

For the educational upliftment of minority communities, 546 hostels for Minority Students are being set up. Of this, 424 have already been operationalised. A maintenance grant of Rs. 10,000 per annum per student is also being provided.

In Minority concentrated areas, construction work of 305 Karmatirthas (Marketing Hub) have been taken up for providing marketing facilities for artisans, cultivators

and also for improving self-employment opportunity for minority youths and SHG members. Till now, 223 Karmatirthas have been operationalised and another 54 will be operational by February, 2022. Rest 28 are in different stages of construction.

Apart from these schemes, construction works of Aliah University, Minority Bhavan, a third Haj House at New Town, Boundary Walls around Graveyards, English medium madrasahs etc. and miscellaneous schemes like Loans to minority students, vocational/skill development training, scheme for financial assistance to reputed NGOs for infrastructure development, housing for destitute women etc. are the major State Development Schemes which have been taken up by this Department.

3.29 Backward Classes Welfare

All Sub-divisions of the State are now using online facility for issuing caste certificates. During 2021- 22, a total of 35,24,049 (SC – 24,01,343, ST-5,17,100, OBC – 6,05,606) Caste Certificates (up to December, 2021) have been issued including 13,31,892 caste certificates (SC, ST & OBC) issued under the “Duare Sarkar” initiative.

“Toposili Bandhu”, a noble social pension scheme targeting all the 60 and 60+ persons of SC community, has been initiated, where the beneficiaries receive a

monthly pension @ Rs. 1,000 in advance. Under this scheme, around 10.23 Lakh persons are getting monthly pension with a total financial involvement of Rs. 900 crore (up to December, 2021).

Since 2014-15 a fully state funded flagship scholarship programme 'Shikshashree' for SC students of class V-VIII is in operation. During the relevant period 9,65,710 SC students have received this scholarship @ Rs. 800 with a financial involvement of Rs. 77.26 crore.

Since 2015-16 eligible students of Government aided schools and Madrasahs are getting bicycles under "Sabooj Sathi" scheme for increased access to high school education. WBSCST & OBC Development & Finance Corporation implements the programme, operating under the BCW Department. During the current fiscal around 21.33 lakh students of class IX of academic year 2020 and 2021 have been covered. Since inception, around 1.02 crore students so far have received benefit under "Sabooj Sathi" scheme.

The State Government has generated self-employment for around 55,000 youths belonging to targeted communities and has imparted skill training and employment linkage for another 18,900 youths, with a

financial involvement of Rs. 90.10 crore under Special Central Assistance (SCA to Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan) during 2021-22.

During 2021-22, 1440 nos. (SC-1151, ST-289) of aspirants are being provided pre-examination training through 36 centers across the State for JEE/NEET/WBJEE-2022.

For focused development of specific communities, a new Development Board, namely—“Nashya Sekh” Development Board has been constituted. Total number of Development, Welfare and Cultural Board now stands at 17.

3.30 Tribal Development

‘Sikshashree’ Scholarship has been provided to 1,81,000 ST students of Class V-VIII during 2021-22. 30,085 ST students have already applied for Pre-Matric Scholarship of Class IX & X. 97,707 ST students have already applied so far for Post-Matric Scholarship during 2021-22.

6 Development and Cultural Boards are functioning in the state for ensuring sustainable development including preservation and promotion of traditional culture for Hill tribes and other STs of the State requiring

special intervention. During 2021-22, Rs. 74.55 crore have been allotted for the purpose for various schemes like construction of houses, community halls, youth hostels, drinking water sources, holding of cultural festival, etc.

Rs. 1,000 per month is being provided to ST persons with age of 60 years or above through 'Jai Johar' Old Age Pension Scheme rolled out from 01.04.2020. It is a universal scheme having no quota. In 2021-22, 2,78,817 beneficiaries got registered so far for which Rs. 231.03 crore has been utilized till date. It is anticipated that 2,85,000 beneficiaries will be covered during the current fiscal.

Around 35,000 ST candidates have been registered under the Scheme 'Kendu Leaves Collectors Social Security Scheme 2015' under which one-time assistance on attaining 60 years of age, accidental death, injury, maternity benefit, medical assistance are provided to the registered collectors.

200 Jaher Thans (Place of Worship) have been fenced at a cost of Rs. 2 crore.

Coaching is provided for JEE (Main), NEET, WBJEE exam through 36 centres across the State to the poor ST

students. Annual intake is 250 students. Students are qualifying for admission in IIT, Medical and Government Engineering Colleges through this coaching.

3.31 Labour

About 93% of the working population of the state fall under the category of the unorganised workers. The SAMAJIK SURAKSHA YOJANA (SSY)-2017 was undertaken with the objective of integrating the different schemes and to offer uniform benefits to all unorganised workers under the single umbrella scheme that would provide social security to the unorganised sector workers.

To assist the enrolled beneficiaries further, the state government decided to waive off the beneficiary contribution of Rs. 25 a month as their subscription payment towards their provident fund. It has now been decided to contribute Rs. 55 per month as a whole for the beneficiaries from 1st April, 2020. The scheme was renamed “Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana” (BMSSY)—where any enrolled unorganised worker can avail all the available benefits without spending a single rupee.

Every year, the month of January is observed as the SOCIAL SECURITY MONTH across the State. In this connection and to reach out more and more unorganized sectors workers, SHRAMIK MELAS have been organized at various locations in the State since 2014.

To provide financial relief to the Industrial Workmen who are rendered out of employment due to prolonged lock out / suspension of work & closure of industrial units, the State Government had introduced a scheme called Financial Assistance to Workers in Locked Out Industries (FAWLOI). Under this scheme Rs. 1,500 per month as financial assistance along with an annual amount of Rs 1,500 as Puja/Eid ex-Gratia payment is provided. During 2021-22, (upto 31.12.2021) Rs. 25.94 crore has been disbursed to 27,426 workers from 175 industrial units.

The Employment Bank is a state-owned job-portal where Job-seekers, Employers & Placement Agencies, Educational Institutions & Training Providers, Service Providers & Service Seekers are able to interact online. Presently, 38,08,378 Jobseekers and 769 Employers have been enrolled in the Employment Bank Portal as on 31.12.2021.

Under Yuvasree, the State Government is providing unemployment assistance to one lakh jobseekers registered in Employment Bank since October, 2013 to enable the jobseekers to increase their employability or become suitable to set up self employment ventures by upgrading their skills. Each of the one lakh selected jobseekers is paid a stipend of Rs.1,500 per month under

this scheme. 1,81,477 number of jobseekers have been given the benefit of “Yuvasree” as on 31.12.2021.

Special Coaching for job aspirants preparing for competitive examinations and Vocational Guidance and Career talk Motivation for Counselling and Guidance for Career are being imparted by this Department.

In the ESI Hospitals the number of Insured Persons (IP) in West Bengal has increased to 19,52,270 upto 31/03/2021. Adequate steps have been taken in all 13 State ESI Hospitals and all the Service Dispensaries for care and containment during Covid-19 pandemic. Covid vaccination centre has been started functioning in all 13 State ESI hospitals. 20 bedded HDU (High Dependant unit) have been constructed in 10 State ESI Hospitals. A Liquid Medical Oxygen Plant has been constructed at Gourhati ESI Hospital. A new building at Baltikuri ESI Hospital has been made functional with 300 bed capacity. Three State ESI Hospitals namely Baltikuri, Uluberia and Bandel ESI Hospital were turned into dedicated Covid hospital and rendered service for care and containment during Covid-19 pandemic.

3.32 Self Help Group & Self Employment

West Bengal Swarojgar Sahayak Prokolpo (WBSSP), provides interest subvention to the loans received by the

SHGs with the primary objective of keeping the interest burden of the SHG to a meager 2 per cent. During financial year 2021-22, subvention of benefits to the tune of Rs. 10 crore have been provided to 30,340 SHGs beneficiaries through concerned Nodal Banks.

SHGs and unemployed youths are provided with livelihood generation assistance by taking up Micro Projects in convergence with MGNREGS and Fishery/ Animal Resources Development/Horticulture/ Agriculture. During 2021-22, 1,871 SHGs, 1,742 entrepreneurs have been provided benefit through 327 projects with a total outlay of Rs. 9.84 crore. This includes supply of utensils and equipment to 35 SHG organised Canteens, where further expenditure for Construction of Kitchen shed is involved.

To provide market linkage to the SHGs and Entrepreneurs, 22 District / Sub District level and a State level “Sabala Mela” are being taken up.

3.33 North Bengal Development

A number of important projects are being implemented in the districts of North Bengal by the Department.

Some of the major projects being implemented by the Department in the district of Alipurduar are (a) Infrastructural development at Jaigaon College

(b) Infrastructural development at Saheed Kshudiram College, (c) Development of Falakata Market Complex, (d) Improvement of Classrooms of Falakata College, (e) Development of Science Block at Birpara College, (f) Development of Academic and Administration Block at Alipurduar Government Engineering and Management College, (g) Construction of Composite Bridge on Lalpani River.

The State Government is also implementing a number of important schemes in Cooch Behar district including (a) Development of Maruganj Hat, (b) Renovation of Rabindra Bhawan, (c) Development of Pundibari Hat, (d) Infrastructure development at Panchanan Barma University, (e) Development of Truck Terminus at NH-31 at Khagrabari, (f) Construction of Boys' and Girls' Hostel in Panchanan Barma University, (g) Construction of Swimming Pool within Stadium Complex, (h) Construction of Academic Building for Faculty of Technology, at Uttarbanga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, (i) Construction of Boys Hostel at Uttarbanga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, (j) Construction of Boys Hostel at Cooch Behar Government Engineering College.

In the district of Darjeeling the State Government has Implemented / taken up some projects. Out of which

Development of Academic Building at Suryasen Mahavidyalaya is worth mentioning.

Some of the notable projects which are being implemented in the district of Jalpaiguri are : (a) Development of College Building of P.D. Women's College, (b) Erection of Truss for Jalpaiguri Sports Complex Gallery 'A' and Gallery 'B', (c) Construction of Auditorium at Dhupguri, (d) Development of Auditorium at Malbazar, (e) Development of Banarhat Market Complex, (f) Construction of Chalsa Mangalbari Bazar, (g) Construction of Science Block of Ananda Chandra College, (h) Development of School Building at Malbazar Subhasini Girls' High School.

In the district of Malda, construction of Bridge over river Bhagirathi at Joth Priti and Construction of Bore Pile Bridge over river Kalindri at Nagharia are being completed.

Construction of Bore Pile Bridge at Singhanath Ghat and Extension of Shree Agrasen Mahavidyalaya are among the significant projects which are being completed in the district of Uttar Dinajpur.

3.34 Sundarban Affairs Department

During 2021-22, construction of 131.91km. road [63.97 km. Brick paved road, 56.65 km. Concrete road, 11.29 km. Bituminous road] has been completed.

Construction of 2 numbers of bridges (Ukiler hat and Baidyapara) has been completed. Works of another 15 bridges are going on and construction of 1 Jetty has also been completed.

Apart from the above civil works programmes, the Department has also accorded approval for 306 schemes of different types of roads along with other civil works schemes amounting to Rs.115 crore. In addition, for repair and restoration works of damages caused by 'Yaas' cyclone, more than Rs. 37 crore have also been sanctioned.

IMC Fingerlings and Fish Feed has been distributed to 30,000 beneficiaries of Sundarban region. As on 31.12.2021, 10,694 beneficiaries have been covered.

Creation of Mangrove and Jhaw Plantation in 560 hectares (Mangrove - 440 ha., Jhaw - 120 ha.) has been completed in Sundarban region.

3.35 Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs

Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs Department is engaged in upliftment of the people living in the Western Part of the State predominantly inhabited by SC & ST population by way of implementing infrastructure development projects, livelihood projects as well as organizing cultural events like Jungle Mahal Utsav. The

jurisdiction of Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs Department covers 7 Districts spreading over 12,558 numbers of villages in 74 Blocks and 648 Gram Panchayets covering an area of about 22.28 lakh hectares.

This Department has taken up legacy projects involving development of rural infrastructure including construction of concrete Road, Bridges, Culverts, Community Centre, School Buildings, installation of solar light, Micro Irrigation, Storage of Water, supply of drinking water etc.

Musical Instruments were distributed among the Cultural groups during the 7th Jangal Mahal Utsav etc.

Rs. 42.5 crore has been allotted to the Public Health Engineering Department for implantation of 500 nos. community based piped water supply system (PWSS) by stand-alone system with photo voltaic cell in 10 Blocks of Purulia District.

Governance

3.36 Home & Hill Affairs Department

The threat of the Covid pandemic is not only on public health, the economic and social disruption threatens the long-term livelihoods of people. The unabated efforts on the part of Police Administration of this State during the pandemic is still continuing. During this pandemic

period 16,813 Police personnel and their supporting volunteers, under the jurisdiction of West Bengal Police, got infected and we have lost 84 valuable lives.

Police Administration are being rearranged and extended as per need of time. A new Police Station namely Golf Green Police Station has been created under Kolkata Police. Under West Bengal Police, new Police Sub-division namely Kaliachak in Malda Police District and Reginagar Police Circle in Murshidabad Police District have also been created.

For better traffic management in city, Kolkata Traffic Police has taken various measures like more CCTV cameras, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) along with Red Light Violation Detection (RLVD), Over Speed Detection and Modern Signalling System. Also the measures have been taken to optimize the real time traffic update through VMSs.

The call centres for Dial 100/112 of Kolkata Police have been revamped under Safe City Project for Women Safety (Nirbhaya). Installation of CCTV Cameras and Video Conferencing System has also been approved under Nirbhaya Fund. Twenty additional Logger Client Node software licenses along with hardware & network

component have been procured by the Kolkata Police to cope up with the cyber related offences.

Directorate of Economic Offences has initiated 46 cases against defaulting Financial Establishment/ Companies in West Bengal. After completion of investigation, 20 cases have already been charge-sheeted. A fair number of properties have been seized/ blocked/ attached and process is going on for the attachment disposal of the seized properties. 6,277 depositors have received payment against defaulting companies.

To upgrade physical infrastructure, Model Urban Police Stations at Kurseong in Darjeeling and Shibpur Police Station in Howrah, Women Police Station in Bidhannagar, 2 Trainers Hostel for CIF at Salboni in Paschim Medinipur, Unit Mess at SAP 4th Battalion, Kasba have been completed.

Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata has been upgraded to ensure speedy and smooth disposal of cases. DNA Section with modern equipment like Genetic Analyzer and Serology Section are being started. Preliminary infrastructure and construction of office building has already been completed for newly proposed Regional Forensic Science Laboratory, Durgapur.

3.37 Personnel & Administrative Reforms

To provide citizen centric Government services at grass root level 3,561 Bangla Sahayata Kendras (BSKs) have been made operational at the offices of the SDO, BDO, Sub-Inspector of Schools, Health Centres, Public Libraries and Urban Local Bodies and altogether 7,122 DEOs are rendering services in those BSKs. More than 5.16 crore services have been delivered so far. As of now, 268 Services under 38 Departments have been notified for delivery through BSKs. Most popular service requests received by BSKs are – registration for COVID vaccination, e-KYC seeding of Aadhaar with Digital Ration Card, Application for Swasthya Sathi enrollment certificate, Application for Caste Certificate, Covid Patient Information etc.

The State Government has initiated recruitment process for Lateral Recruitment of specialists and experts as Consultants in the rank of Joint Secretary and Special Secretary under various Departments. The primary objective is to utilize their professional expertise in the functioning of the selected Departments. Recruitment process for engagement of 50 such Consultants is going on.

In order to ensure good governance as well as to provide better working environment in the district and Sub-Divisional level, Personnel & Administrative Reforms

Department has taken up a number of schemes for the infrastructural development of the administrative units in the districts and sub-divisions.

The Department has completed a number of schemes during 2021-2022 including (1) Integrated Office cum Residential Complex for the District Magistrate, Purba Medinipur at Nimtouri involving financial expenditures of Rs. 161 crore (Approx.) with land development works in public utility space (road portion), concrete roads and Internal & External Drainage System etc., (2) New office Building and Residence of Divisional Commissioner, Medinipur Division.

Some major projects being implemented include construction of six storied New Administrative Building at Burdwan, construction of Integrated Administrative Complex, Jhargram, construction of Administrative Building for Mal Sub-Divisional Officer at Mal, construction of office building within Sub-Divisional Office Campus at Contai.

Some other projects being taken up are : (1) Construction of New SDO Office Complex at Manbazar, (2) Construction of New SDO Office Building at Jhalda, (3) Construction of New SDO Office Building at Haldia, and (4) Construction of proposed Collectorate Complex at Kalyanpur, Asansol.

e-Governance initiatives undertaken by this Department have been conferred with various awards at national level. As a part of recognition, the State of West Bengal has been conferred with the 'Award of Appreciation' under the State Category by Computer Society of India (CSI) during India's e-Governance Awards 2021. This Department has also been awarded with "Digital Technology Sabha Excellence Award" under Enterprise Mobility for Integrated Covid Management System.

3.38 Disaster Management & Civil Defence

Actively combating natural calamities in the State is the main responsibility of the Department of Disaster Management and Civil Defence.

At present, there are 425 flood shelters and 270 Relief Godowns in the state. Besides, construction of 221 multi-purpose Cyclone Shelters (MPCS) under the ICZMP, NCRMP-II and PMNRF Schemes, in the coastal districts of Purba Medinipur, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas have been completed.

The very severe Cyclone "YAAS" made landfall in Digha on 26th May 2021. The department took a proactive role and supervised massive evacuation of more than 20.35 lakh people before YAAS made landfall. Although

more than 2 crore people were directly affected in 18 districts of the state, lives of lakhs of people were saved. Post YAAS restoration work was done quickly and 3,753.16 MT SGR Rice, 55.90 lakh pouches of Drinking Water, 1815.48 MT Baby Food, 2525.23 MT Flat Rice, 778.21 MT Jaggery, 23734 DM Kits, 16.18 lakh Masks & 59,116 litres of sanitizers were distributed. The Department's timely intervention like early warning dissemination, awareness generation, rescue, relief, response and rehabilitation effectively reduced loss of life and property during "YAAS". 15,215 Relief Shelters were opened, 295 Quick Response Teams from Civil Defence, 42 SDRF Teams, 46-NDRF Teams, 17 Columns of Army, 7 Teams from Navy & 971 Medical teams were deployed. Rs. 431.39 crore was released from SDRF for assistance to beneficiaries whose house/crop/animal/fishery/orchard etc. was damaged during "YAAS" and also for repair and restoration of damaged infrastructure.

The Department made available 20.78 lakh Tarpaulins, 6.83 lakh Sarees, 3.79 lakh Dhuti, 5.34 lakh Bed Sheets and 9.01 lakh Children Garments for the Natural Calamity affected people during this financial year. Total amount of Rs.18.93 crore was provided as ex-gratia to 1,390 death cases during this financial year.

Since March, 2020, the department has played an important role in coordinating the activities of State Executive Committee of West Bengal State Disaster Management Authority in combating spread of Covid-19 pandemic. In March, 2020 as the lockdown was announced due to Covid-19 pandemic, the department strengthened its control room at State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), Nabanna. 3,851 Civil Defence Volunteers have been deployed across the state to collaborate with other agencies for enforcing physical distancing norms and other Covid appropriate protocols.

The State Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) at Disaster Management & Civil Defence Department and all 23 district EOCs played a crucial role in Covid Pandemic and Super Cyclone “YAAS” for exchanging information and for taking appropriate remedial measures to mitigate the effect of the natural calamity and the pandemic. For protecting and facilitating the Migrant Labourers, a Scheme named “Sneher Paras” has been taken up and also with the help of Indian Railways movement of migrant labourers was facilitated from different parts of the country.

More than Rs. 1,194 crore (as on 31.12.2021) has been released as disaster assistance during the current financial year 2021-22 for both the Covid-19 pandemic

situation and super cyclone “YAAS”. In pursuance to the order of the Hon’ble Supreme Court, the State Government is paying ex-gratia assistance to the next kin of the deceased due to Covid-19 @ Rs. 50,000 for each death. Rs. 61.27 crore has been disbursed to 12,254 beneficiaries up till 31st December, 2021.

During the Monsoon season there was constant alert for rescue and relief during two phases of flood from end of July, 2021 to first week of August and September, 2021 to October, 2021 which caused havoc damage in all districts of the state. There was landslide in the hill region during September, 2021 – October, 2021 due to heavy rain. During the Monsoon period, 70 Motorised Boats, 126 Agramis and 305 Civil Defence Volunteers trained in boat operation were deployed in 20 districts. Additionally, 12 motorised boats with manpower were kept on standby at Kolkata. During idol immersion in Durga Puja 20 Boats, 50 Agramis, 2 Doctors and 259 Civil Defence Volunteers were deployed. During Chhat Puja at Kolkata, Boats, Agramis, Divers with SCUBA Sets were deployed at 9 points at Kolkata and also at some of the districts.

Civil Defence Wing has been equipped with 44 Quick Response Team (QRT) with Rescue Vehicles, 86 Speed Boats and having 66,534 trained Civil Defence Volunteers. 50 Inflatable Boats and 25 Bullet Chain Saws have been procured during the year 2021-22.

3.39 Fire & Emergency Services

During 2021-22, the State Government has taken several steps for development of Fire Fighting arrangements throughout the state by means of setting up of new Fire Stations at different vulnerable places, procuring many appropriate fire tenders and fire equipment etc. The procurement of ultramodern equipment will help in capacity building of the Fire Fighters and generating awareness among the citizens.

The number of Fire Stations have increased from 109 in 2011-12 to 154 as on date. Construction of 06 nos. of new Fire Stations at Nishiganj, Gangasagar, Beldanga, New Town, New Barrackpore and Galsi have been completed and commissioned. Construction of a new building for existing Cossipore Fire Station has also been completed in this year.

Construction work of new Fire Stations at Purbasthali and Panskura and another new building for existing Maniktala Fire Station are near completion and the same will be commissioned shortly.

During this period a significant number of Fire Tenders /sophisticated appliances have been procured including 250 numbers of BA set Carbon Composite, 250 numbers of Rechargeable LED search light, 4 numbers of water and foam Mist System Trolley, 20 numbers of Rotary Hammer Drill, 20 numbers of Demolition Hammer and 10 numbers of Petrol Operated Bullet Chain Saw etc.

3.40 Correctional Administration

Construction of Baruipur Central Correctional Home at Baruipur, South 24 Parganas is under progress. Major part of the project has already been completed. Rs. 111.03 crore has been utilized. The Project will be completed in financial year 2023-24.

Construction of a new Correctional Home at Baruipur for shifting inmates of Presidency Correctional Home is under progress. Rs. 56.15 crore has been utilized from the sanctioned amount of Rs. 64.15 crore till date. The Project is expected to be completed in the financial year 2023-24.

Construction of new District Correctional Home at Nimtouri in Purba Medinipur has been taken up by the West Bengal Police Housing & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (WBPH & IDCL) and execution of the project is under progress.

Construction of Sub Correctional Home at Chanchal, Malda is under progress for which Rs. 8.28 crore has been utilized till date.

Residual works for “Construction of Quarters for Officers and Staff of Presidency Correctional Home at Baruipur” is under progress for which Rs. 11.27 crore has been utilized. The Project will be completed in the financial year 2023-24.

Construction work of 3 storied (G+2) Office Building of DIG (Baruipur Range) of Correctional Services, West Bengal and Executive Guest House along with Allied Works at Presidency Jail Complex of Baruipur, South 24-Parganas, has been started. Rs. 25 lakh has been utilized for the purpose. The Project will be completed in the financial year 2022-23.

Construction work of the Manufacturing Department Building at Balurghat Central Correctional Home has been completed.

677 Trainee Warders (both Male & Female) have been appointed in various Correctional Homes of West Bengal and the 'Basic Training' programme in respect of 200 Warders among them has been completed till date.

55,940 inmates have been virtually produced before the courts through e-Court module from April, 2021 to November, 2021.

Facility of virtual communication between the inmates and their family members have been provided through e-Mulakat module and 2,818 inmates have already been benefited with the above system till November, 2021.

The Correctional Homes of West Bengal played an exemplary role in the prevention of the spread of Covid-19 inside the Correctional Homes. PPE kits, hand sanitizers, disposable hand gloves, face masks, disposable caps,

IR Thermometers and Pulse Oxymeters were provided on urgent basis to meet up the requirements of the Correctional Homes. Face masks were manufactured within the Central Correctional Homes and distributed among all other Correctional Homes throughout West Bengal.

Vaccination camps have also been organized for both the inmates and staff of the Correctional Homes in collaboration with the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal and Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

3.41 Planning and Statistics

During the 16th Assembly (2016-21) total budget allocation under Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa (BEUP) scheme was Rs. 891 crore out of which Rs. 855 crore (95.96%) was released to districts and KMC. During the period of 16th Lok Sabha (2014-19), total expenditure under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was Rs. 936.15 crore against a release of Rs. 905 crore. Percentage of Utilization was 101.47% well above the national average of 100.01%.

In “Duare Sarkar” 1st phase, about 32,830 camps were conducted across the state. More than 2.75 crore citizens were benefitted during the phase. In 2nd phase, about 1,04,435 camps were organised having foot fall over 3.69 crore citizens.

In “Paray Samadhan”, during 2nd January–15th February, 2021, more than 10,180 schemes like minor repair of roads & bridges, drainage issues, drinking water connectivity, street light changes, minor health issues, irrigation problems, sanitization issues etc. were undertaken and more than 2 crores people were benefited. During 16th August–31st August, 2021, almost 23,000 schemes were undertaken.

The Department has taken initiatives to establish “State Spatial Data Centre (SSDC)” to integrate the maps/ data available with the line departments/districts. Design, development, implementation & maintenance of an integrated application for the State and District Spatial Data Centres is in progress.

The regular works of the Bureau of Applied Economics & Statistics (BAE&S) viz. Estimation of Area, Yield & Production of 19 major crops, State Domestic Product (SDP), District Domestic Product (DDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP), publication of State and District Statistical Handbook, Statistical Abstract etc. remained the prime focus areas during 2021-22.

3.42 Science and Technology and Biotechnology

487 ongoing Research & Development (R & D) projects are currently being supported by the Department in addition to 29 new projects recommended for funding

during the year 2021-2022 for implementation in various Government aided institutions across the State to promote scientific research in biotechnology, agriculture, chemical sciences, animal & fishery sciences, physical sciences, medical sciences, environment, engineering & technology, etc.

This will help in building and nurturing an ecosystem to support S & T led entrepreneurship, promoting scientific research and innovation, commercialization of research output and supporting job creation and employment. The Department in collaboration with Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta runs an Entrepreneur & Innovation Park and also signed an MoU to set up a 'Technology Development and Adaptation Centre (TDAC)' through the West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology.

A Technology Hunt Programme to provide the opportunity to pitch the ideas of the outcome of the research and development projects funded by this Department was held on 9th February, 2021. As an outcome of this programme, nine projects were selected based on the novelty of Idea and Research, Leadership, Team Capability, Innovation, Market Opportunity, Ease of Implementation and Social and State Impact.

Kolkata Biotech Park (KBP) is being implemented under the National Biotechnology Park Scheme formulated by the Department of Biotechnology,

Government of India (DBT, GoI) to promote setting up of industrial biotechnology ventures, support start-up for incubation and development of innovation, attract investment and creation of employment. Initiative has been taken to set up Bio-incubators jointly with the Universities and/or Research Institutes in West Bengal, having potential for technical and entrepreneurial support, through the Bio-NEST (Bio-incubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies) programme/funding of BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council).

Under the Jagadish Bose National Science Talent Search (JBNSTS) programme, fellowships have been provided to 50 students for the Senior Bigyani Kanya Medha Britti scholarship amounting to a total of Rs. 98.95 lakh; 50 scholarships amounting to Rs.1.42 crore have been provided under Senior Talent Search and Rs. 1.19 crore has been earmarked for 200 students under the Junior Talent Search & 50 students under Junior Bigyani Kanya Medha Britti scholarships for 2021-2022.

Under the Patent Information Centre (PIC), patentability assessment of 40 documents; facilitating filing of 29 Patents which include 9 patents on Coivd-19 issues and facilitating filing of 7 copyright and 5 Trademarks have been completed. The Centre also participated as faculty in 10 IPR awareness generation

programmes, 2 G.I applications were filed and 256 authorized GI stakeholders were facilitated; 32 GI authorized users were registered.

This Department has initiated second batch of three new courses on Intellectual Property Rights and Technology Business Management namely Certificate, Advanced Certificate and PG Diploma in IPR affiliated to MAKAUT for capacity building in respective domains and a total of 27 candidates were enrolled.

3.43 Environment

The 'Expert Committee on Protection of Coastal Areas and Earthen Embankments through Vegetative Solutions' as set up by the State Government to suggest various environment-friendly solutions for protecting the State's coastal areas from the devastation wrought by cyclones as well as measures for strengthening the earthen embankments/ slopes of rivers, canals and channels.

West Bengal Pollution Control Board has undertaken a commendable initiative of 'Re-greening of Kolkata' to compensate for the unprecedented loss of green cover in the Kolkata Metropolitan Area in the wake of super cyclone 'Amphan'. The plantation of more than 17,000 saplings at different places in Kolkata, Bidhannagar and New Town has been completed in record time.

The Department is working on the implementation of Comprehensive Action Plans (CAPs) for better air quality management in Seven Non-Attainment cities of West Bengal. City level monitoring has been set up in all seven NACs (Kolkata, Howrah, Asansol, Barrackpore, Durgapur, Haldia and Raniganj). The Department has also undertaken a special afforestation drive in collaboration with Forest Department to improve air quality in the seven 'Non-Attainment Cities' of West Bengal (Kolkata, Howrah, Asansol, Barrackpore, Durgapur, Haldia and Raniganj) for control of air pollution. Plantation of approx. 1,12,000 of 2 year old seedlings will be completed within March 2022.

The Department is preparing State Action Plan for Climate Change 2021-2030 which involves eighteen stakeholder departments.

The Environment Department has taken initiative with South 24 Parganas district administration and Gangasagar Bakkhali Development Authority to ensure an eco-friendly and plastic free Green Gangasagar Mela 2021.

The Department has taken up 11 (Eleven) Biodiversity Parks throughout the State, and an Open Air Butterfly Conservatory at Bengal Safari Park, Siliguri in collaboration with West Bengal Zoo Authority.

The WBPCB has installed automatic continuous online monitoring devices for monitoring of effluent quality for 54 Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) of the State. Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) is operational at Bantala Leather Complex Kolkata having Capacity of 20 MLD (4 modules each of 5 MLD) for treating of tannery effluent.

The WBPCB has implemented the On-line Consent Management and Monitoring System (WBOCMMS) by engaging NIC. DICs has also started processing of Consent to Establish (CTE) & Consent to Operate (CTO) for GREEN category industries through Online Consent Management & Monitoring System of State Board (WBOCMMS) since April 2021.

The WBPCB has taken step to set up an Electrical and Electronic Waste Treatment facility in collaboration with Deptt. of IT & E, GoWB. Also WBPCB and WBEIDCL have initiated a project to estimate annual e-waste generation in the State of West Bengal.

The WBPCB has engaged 16 nos. dedicated water sprinkling vehicles for water sprinkling on busy roads of Kolkata, Howrah, Bidhannagar and Newtown for controlling air pollution in winter season due to flying of Road dust.

Surface water quality is being monitored from 138 different locations of West Bengal by the WBPCB. These surface water quality monitoring include river Ganga, Damodar, Mahananda, Rupnarayan, Tista, Torsha and other rivers and lakes.

The WBPCB has taken steps to install Sound Detection & Ranging (SODAR) for R & D support for better Mitigation of Pollutants at 4 places i.e. Kolkata, Panpur, Maldah and Silliguri.

The West Bengal Biodiversity Board has undertaken documentation of fish diversity in six districts, development of database of microbes diversity of EKW area, study on swamp Eel, diversity of muscid flies. Apart from survey and studies, the Board has also supported establishment of Seed Bank of traditional rice varieties of South Bengal etc.

An Integrated Management Plan (2021-2026) of the East Kolkata Wetland area at an estimated cost of Rs. 110.70 crore for conservation and sustainable development ensuring livelihood opportunities for the wetlands communities has been approved by the state government.

Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management has undertaken updation of existing Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) as per Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2019.

Industry : Small, Medium and Large

3.44 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles

West Bengal holds an important place on the MSME map of India. With 14% share of total MSMEs of the country, the State ranks first in MSME map of India in terms of the number of female owned proprietary enterprises and manufacturing enterprises. The efforts of the State Government over the last 10 years aim at creating entrepreneurship development, skill development, development of clusters, setting up of common facility centres, creating industrial and marketing infrastructure, facilitating credit and market linkage, providing market exposure through various fairs and expos, etc. Introduction of online system, setting up facilitation centres in districts to handhold entrepreneurs backed by enabling business climate have seen remarkable growth in MSMEs sector in the State.

More than 1,16,000 MSMEs have filed MSME registration up to 3rd quarter in 2021-22 where employment figure is close to 16,00,000. Bank loan provided to MSMEs during April-September 2021 was to the tune of Rs. 45,782 crore which is about 36% increase over the same period in 2020-21.

Various infrastructural development works have been undertaken in Calcutta Leather Complex. Road network

of added area of Calcutta Leather Complex have been completed under Mega Leather Cluster program and 4 new Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) have been commissioned. Besides, work is under progress for the STP in Institutional Limited Partners Association (ILPA) zone, Micro-tanners project and upgradation of 4 existing CETPs.

Scheme of Approved Industrial Park (SAIP) 2020 has been simplified by relaxing the minimum land criteria from 20 acres to 5 acres and by inclusion of industrial activities like warehousing, logistics, poultry & fishery etc within the ambit of the scheme. So far 13 private entities have submitted applications under this scheme for setting up industrial parks. Further, around 50 parcels of vested land each over 5 acres have been identified across the state for inviting proposals from interested private developers for setting up SAIP parks. Under the amended SAIP scheme, setting up of a single window system has been approved at WBSIDCL to provide single point clearances related to Fire NoC, Consent of West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) and land mutation/conversion for all industrial units to come up in approved parks.

A Powerloom Incentive Scheme has been notified which aims to make state self-sufficient in producing fabric required for production of readymade garment especially school uniform. This scheme provide 20%

capital subsidy (besides other facilities available under Banglashree scheme) for the first 2,000 new age shuttleless looms installed in the state after 1st January, 2022. The department has already taken steps for setting up three Integrated Textile Parks across the state in the districts of North 24 Parganas, Nadia and Uttar Dinajpur. 45 Readymade Garment Clusters have been identified and 426 power looms have been enlisted for making school uniforms.

Synergy & Business Facilitation events have been organized to reach out to the entrepreneurs and investors and so far more than 2,200 entrepreneurs have participated.

Tantuja has supplied more than 24 lakh Sarees/Dhutis/Bedsheets to Disaster Management Department and also supplied more than 60 lakh Covid safety materials to different government departments/organizations. Further, Tantuja has procured normal handloom products of Rs. 7.5 crore from weavers. This has created about 60 lakh man days and provided regular employment to around 16,000 weavers so far. The turnover of Tantuja has reached Rs. 261 crore till December, 2021. The organization has recently bagged National Award from Ministry of Textiles, Government of India on Design Development. During 2021-22,

Manjusha has opened three showrooms at Barasat, Behala and Balurghat. The turnover of the organization stood at nearly Rs. 67 crore till December, 2021.

WBSIDC has issued land allotment offer to 80 MSME entrepreneurs for setting up industries in different industrial parks administered by the agency. The organization has supplied around 2.18 lakh litre hand sanitizer to different government departments and 2.7 crore soaps under Mid Day Meal project. Besides, as a marketing strategy different fairs/expo have been organized between April-December, 2021.

The State is moving fast in introducing regulatory reforms under the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) initiatives and significant success has been achieved. Under the rationalisation/reduction of compliance burden on businesses, over 500 compliances have been identified for reduction across the various departments of the state government of which over 460 have already been reduced. Single window system has been introduced for all Building Plan related NoC (s) by ULBs. Timeline has been reduced to 3 days for issuing Consent to Establish (CTE) & Consent to Operate (CTO) certificate for Green Category Industry for capital investment up to Rs. 5 crore (except tanneries in CLC). Central Inspection System for all Labour Laws and Environmental Clearances have been introduced and renewal has been

eliminated for Wholesale Drug License, Retail Drug License and Drug Manufacturing License. Renewal of registration under Shops & Establishment Act has been eliminated and Auto-renewal on real time basis for Factory License, License for Contractors under Contracts Labour (R&A) Act, Registration under Inter State Migrant Workmen (RE & CS) Act, Trade License (ULBs), Registration under Clinical Establishment Act have been introduced. Procedures have been simplified for issue of Trade License, New Electricity Connection, Registration under Shops & Establishment Act and Consent to Establish (CTE) & Consent to Operate (CTO).

3.45 Industry, Commerce & Enterprises

Till December 2021, WBIDC has allotted 886.13 acres of industrial land to 16 units involving investments to the tune of Rs. 4,172.19 crore with a proposed employment of 11,730 people. 27,845.37 sq.ft. of space in its modular based industrial parks has been allotted to 4 units for an overall investment of Rs. 11.92 crore with a proposed employment of 270 people.

Development of infrastructure for new industrial parks has been undertaken including Gems & Jewellery park at Ankurhati, Food Park, Phase-III at Sankhrail, Rishi Bankim Silpaudyam at Naihati and Budge Budge Garment Park. 2,483 acres of existing industrial land of WBIDC at Raghunathpur in Purulia District have been

approved for development under Amritsar-Kolkata-Industrial Corridor (AKIC) Project under the name of Jungal Sundari Karmanagari. About 600 acres of land has been allotted to Shyam Steel Works Ltd. A proposed investment by the unit would be about Rs. 2,000 crore in the area with an employment of about 5,000 people. Land parcel of 799 acres has also been proposed for inclusion in the AKIC project area.

Budge Budge Garment Park is being developed by WBIDC over a super build up area of 7.6 lakh sq.ft. by establishing 4 nos of SDF (G+7, 1.8 lakh sq.ft. each) and one CFB (G+3, 4 lakh sq.ft.) over 9.85 acres of land. Super structure of all 5 buildings has been completed. Construction work is expected to be completed by June, 2022.

Instakart (a Flipkart Group company) has set up its fulfillment center over 109.12 acres of land with an investment of Rs. 991 crore in the Haringhata Industrial Park. This green logistics project is becoming Eastern Region's largest Distribution Center which has generated employment for over 18,000 people.

In Haldia Industrial Park, Emami Agro tech has taken 20 acres of land with an investment of Rs. 425 crore towards expansion of their existing facility at Haldia, and has commenced commercial production. In Barjora

Plasto Steel Park Ph-III, M/s Rahee Infratech Ltd. has taken 11 acres of land for their iron casting and steel fabricating unit with an investment of Rs. 76.44 crore.

Upto December, 2021, out of total area of 2,110 acres of land, 1,613 acres of land has been allotted by WBIIDC to 494 Industrial Units in different parks with project investment of Rs. 3,863 crore and employment of 44,682 persons.

WBIIDC has recently allotted around 21.239 acres of land in different Industrial parks to 8 Entrepreneurs for setting up different types of industries with a proposed investment of Rs. 379.96 crore and employment of 654 persons. WBIIDC is also developing infrastructure for Pharmaceutical Parks over 33 acres of land and Industrial Parks on around 100 acres of land at Falta Industrial Park and Sector V - Falta Industrial Park respectively in the district of South 24 Parganas for allotment to the various industrial units.

The construction of exhibition Centre at Milan Mela ground is in progress. About 80 per cent of work has been completed. The construction is expected to be completed by end of March, 2022.

For development of proposed Tajpur Port, RFQ-cum-RFP has been floated in October, 2021. 950 acres of land earmarked for Goaltore IP has been handed over to Power

Department for their Solar Power Project in return for a suitable 1000+ acres of land in Dadanpatrabhar, Purba Medinipore District for augmenting the requirements of Tajpur Port Project.

A holistic and comprehensive portal for Silpasathi Single Window Services has been developed. Silpasathi received the prestigious SKOCH Award for public delivery of services in 2021.

Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) has been engaged for the Gourangdih ABC Coal Project in Paschim Bardhaman District which has a capex of 1,011 crore and rated capacity of 2.50 Million Tons of coal per year through West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL). The Jethia Hatgacha Black Stone Mine in Birbhum District has been operationalised through WBMDTCL.

The Sand Mining Policy, 2021 is being successfully implemented by WBMDTCL being the Designated Agency of the Government of West Bengal with a view, *inter alia*, to ensure that sand mining is done in a scientific, environmentally sustainable and socially responsible manner. Over 12,55,805 Challans have been issued through the WBMDTCL portal by 15th January, 2022.

An Ethanol Production & Promotion Policy was Notified on 7th September, 2021 and guidelines issued on 18th October, 2021. An online system of processing applications has been developed and made operational through Directorate of Industries. Timely intervention by the State has facilitated the Bengal based companies to obtain award of contract from the Oil Marketing Companies. About Rs. 1,700 crore investments in Ethanol production is expected to materialise in 18 months time.

An EoI for Cycle Manufacturing Facility in Bengal was floated by WBIDC in October, 2021, soliciting interest from cycle manufacturing companies. Four big companies in the sector have expressed their interest. Further modalities are being developed to encourage setting up of a cycle manufacturing facility in Bengal.

Bengal Gas Company Ltd. was formed between GAIL and Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation Ltd. for City Gas Distribution Project in Kolkata. So far, four CNG stations have been commissioned – 3 in New Town area and 1 in Garia. Close to 3 KM of new pipe-laying works have been completed so far. The Laying of pipeline for Guwahati-Barauni Pipeline of GAIL is also progressing smoothly.

3.46 Public Enterprises & Industrial Reconstruction

The PE&IR Department *inter alia*, is tasked with combating industrial sickness in the State with the objective of resurrecting industrial units that have turned sick or weak or have been forced to close down following sickness and play nodal role in restructuring State PSEs.

Saraswaty Press Limited (SPL), an ISO 9001 : 2015 company, is the leader in Eastern India for security & confidential printing as well as for printing of school text books. Also empanelled with Indian Bank Association as a security printer, the company operates from five locations. Its subsidiary, the West Bengal Text Book Corporation Ltd (WBTBCL) prints more than 10.5 crore Text Books and 4 crore Khata each year involving approximately 400 different titles in six languages. These are delivered to more than 2,000 locations throughout West Bengal.

The Department is providing support and assistance for revival of DCL observing all necessary measures as recommended by WBPCB.

Services

3.47 Tourism

West Bengal is endowed with natural bounties ranging from Himalayas in the North, to Bay of Bengal Sunderbans in the South and mountainous terrain in the West and beautiful landscapes with cultural and

historical richness. The State Government has laid due emphasis to tap this potential and for promotion of tourism in the state.

A revised Incentive Scheme for promotion of tourism in the state was introduced on 19th February, 2021 called “The West Bengal Incentive Scheme 2021” wherein necessary amendments were made to simplify the definitions of Tourism Units and remove certain bottlenecks. The suggestions received from the stakeholders were also duly incorporated.

The State Government has introduced West Bengal Home Stay Policy 2017, amended in 2019 by delegating authority to the district administration thereby decentralizing the procedure. An amount upto Rs.1.5 lakh is provided as incentive to the registered Home Stay owners in three equal instalments. Since introduction of the policy, upto 31.12.2021, a total of 588 homestays have been registered and Tourism Department has released Rs. 4.70 crore as incentive. Post covid environment has witnessed significant rise in homestay occupancy.

A guidebook on the trek routes of North Bengal named “Trails of Discovery” has been published to boost the bright prospect of adventure tourism in the state. It has covered 88 trek routes from the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri. The book has the

meticulous details on the itinerary, distance, maps, description of terrain, grading according to difficulties and numerous illustrations.

Purulia Tourism Development Council (PTDC) has been formed to promote Purulia as one of the major tourism destinations in West Bengal and to develop overall tourism infrastructure and facilities within the district of Purulia.

“Paryatan Sahayata Prakalpa” is a pioneering scheme of financial support to the stakeholders in tourism and hospitality industry to provide assistance to the tourism units under this scheme. Working Capital Loan from Banks along with loan interest subvention to the extent of 50% of the interest for first year subject to maximum 4% of total loan amount will also be provided.

The State Government had been giving recognition to tourism stakeholders in the past for which Rules for Voluntary Recognition of Tour and Travel Operators was published. The guidelines have been revised wherein classification of the various stakeholders under various categories such as Inbound Tour Operators, Domestic Tour Operators, MICE Tour Operators, Cruise Tour Operators, Adventure Tour Operators, Travel Agents and Tourist Transport Operators have been duly classified as per the prevailing international/ national standards.

Renewal process has been simplified and the period extended to 5 years. This will increase the credibility of the tourism stakeholders as well as confidence of the tourists.

In view of the state's tourism potential, a Tourist Guides Certification Scheme is on the anvil for the first time where certification, recognition and training for the New and Veteran Tourist Guides will be provided. This scheme would provide support to the tourist guides, strengthen their capacity and open up new livelihood opportunities across the state.

Tourism Department introduced display of the rich folk genres of Bengal cultural cum folk programmes through Lok Prasar Prakalpa artists in the year 2020 in collaboration with Information & Cultural Affairs Department in fourteen of its Tourism properties, which has received appreciation from the tourists and is now expanding it to rest of the properties. The Department has already identified places of Craft demonstrations in its properties, designed possible visit to nearby art & craft villages for setting up a corner with tourism products including handicrafts. This is helping West Bengal Tourism to offer a unique cultural experience to its guests.

In a first of its kind, a three-day 'Bengal Himalayan Carnival' was held in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Gajoldoba in Jalpaiguri from 5th-7th February, 2021, in an effort to boost the state's tourism industry in the wake of the Covid pandemic. A joint initiative by the Tourism Department and the Himalayan Hospitality and Tourism Development Network, has featured heritage walk display of handicrafts, local cuisine and folk genre by artisans / folk artists.

The project of comprehensive infrastructure development of almost all WBTDCL properties is at its final stage and several rooms of different tourist properties have already been upgraded.

Department has introduced two online services under the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) grant of incentives to hotels under West Bengal Incentive Scheme, 2015 voluntary recognition of tour operators as well as renewal of voluntary recognition of tour operators.

Aahoran is first ever state owned hospitality management institute and has already started its 3rd academic session. National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT), Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has recently enhanced student intake capacity from 60 to 180.

With the primary aim of creating economic opportunities for members of Self Help Groups, artisans, folk artists and many others who are financially dependent on the different fairs and festival and who have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, a three day programme namely 'Bangla Moder Gorbo' has been organised in several districts following requisite and stringent Covid safety protocols.

Tourism Department has organised 'Kolkata Christmas Festival, 2021' in and around Park Street, Kolkata in 11th year in a row. The cultural programme was organized in the Allen Park, Mother Teresa Sarani, (Park Street) during the period from 20th December, 2021 to 30th December, 2021.

In 2021, Tourism Department, Government of West Bengal has been conferred with the prestigious SKOCH GOLD award under the 'Tourism and Culture' category for transformational performance during Covid pandemic.

Some major new projects have been undertaken by the Tourism Department such as Circuit tourism for development of Kachua and Chakla Loknath Ashram, North 24 Parganas; implementation of different projects in Ramkrishna Math, Antpur, Hooghly, construction of 15 wooden cottages/chalets and other facilities like

restaurant, pantry, dormitory, view deck etc. in 'Bhorer Alo', Gajoldoba, Jalpaiguri and construction of pre-fabricated cottages at Gajoldoba, Jalpaiguri; renovation, landscaping and beautification work for Pirtala Mazar Complex under South 24 Parganas; Annantasari Omkarnath Smriti Soudha (in the holy name of Anantasri Srtasamdas Omkarnath Dev) in the main entrance of the city Mahamilan Math, Kolkata. Various works of tourism properties are maintained by WBTDCL like Dighali – II Tourism Property, Jhargram T.P, Mainak T.P, Moorti T.P, Gangasagar T.P, Nataraj T.P, Chandannagar T.P, Rangabitan– II T.P etc.

3.48 Information Technology and Electronics

The Department has been consistently striving towards improvement and augmentation of IT infrastructure to address the emerging demand from IT enterprises and challenges of cyber security .

'West Bengal Data Centre Policy, 2021' was announced with the vision of making West Bengal, the most preferred destination for Data Centre Industry in the country. Construction of Webel Tower at New Town, Rajarhat and IT Park (Ph-II) Project at Kalyani have been completed. Cyber security training centers have been set up at Asansol, Barjora, Purulia & Siliguri (Ph-II) IT Parks. West Bengal State Data Centre (WBSDC) has advanced significantly in terms of IT infrastructure

services, performance and reliability. The capacity of new cloud computing infrastructure has been augmented by additional 264 CPU cores, 6TB Memory and 50 TB SAN storage space. This year several critical new applications (e.g. Student Credit Card, Lakshmir Bhandar, Duare Sarkar, Online Ration Card Management, Samajik Suraksha Yojana, Single Window portal of UDMA Dept) have been successfully hosted from WBSDC. With the State Government's "Cloud First" hosting approach, WBSDC is currently processing large number of web hosting requests from various Departments and Directorates. For accommodating such huge demands for web hosting at WBSDC and for safety and security of hosted data, Department of IT & E has taken up a new project for WBSDC capacity augmentation along with implementation of a Disaster Recovery centre at Webel IT Park in Purulia District. Enhancement of the existing hosting capacity of WBSDC to 2.5 times and subsequently to 5 times in 2 phases have been planned. In the 1st phase/year, the DR site will be set up with 100% data replication facility. In the 2nd phase all critical applications will be capable of running from DR Site.

Cyber Security Centre of Excellence (CS-CoE) launched 'Cyber Assurance Programme' with a vision to create a Cyber Safe Bengal. The Programme intends to create and maintain a robust 'Public ICT Security

Framework’ across the state through awareness generation and skill building, simultaneously. CS-CoE trained more than 6,500 teachers through Cyber Shikshak— Cyber Security Awareness Training programme. Total 2,000 Government Officials have been trained through the On the Job Training (OJT). Total 1,500 Police officials trained on Cyber Crime Response through programmes like First Responder Training (FRT), Cyber Security Orientation Training (CSOT), Training on Secured Coding Practice Framework and CDR/IPDR forensic tools. Cyber Security Centre of Excellence (CS-CoE) has received multiple recognition and awards for different initiatives and interventions.

Secure Bengal 2021, a month-long and state-wide online training programme was organized for college students which witnessed over seventeen thousand participants. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology has vested CS-CoE with the vetting responsibility for all their courses on cyber-security.

Karmo Bhumi portal developed and maintained by Society for Natural Language Technology Research (SNLTR) under the Department of Information Technology & Electronics, received the CSI-SIG e-Governance Award of Recognition from the Computer Society of India (CSI) in the category of State. Karmo Bhumi is a Government

of West Bengal initiative to bridge the gaps between Job Seekers and the Employers in IT/ ITeS sectors and to increase employability in the said sectors driving in the State. Till 31st December, 2021 total of 50,000 applicants have been registered with this Portal.

3.49 Consumer Affairs

The Consumer Affairs Department has taken an important role by performing various activities for ensuring protection of the rights of consumers. So far in the current financial year 8,543 numbers of Consumer Awareness Programmes have been organized in 30 Regional Offices. Consumer awareness campaign is being spread through Camp, Seminars, Street Drama, Talking Doll Show, Magic Show, Dist. Level Book Fair, Raash Mela, Mega International Trade Fair, LED Tableau & Tableau etc.

Awareness on WBRTPS Act, 2013 and Consumer Counselling are being conducted through Directorate Head Quarter and 30 Regional Offices and 6 more such offices in 6 sub-divisions that have started functioning from the existing premises of Regional offices and also through State Consumer Helpline. Jatiya Upobhokta Dibas was celebrated throughout the state on 24th December, 2021.

The Grievance Redressal Cell as well as 30 Regional Offices have redressed 2,069 complaints in favour of Consumers, out of the total consumer complaints of 6,718 during this financial year.

As a step towards Ease of Doing Business, processes have been made completely online through e-Parimap. Phase-I was launched for licenses to manufacturers/ repairers/ dealers of weights and measures and registration of packers. Phase-II has gone live on 25.11.2021 and is ready for the generation of verification certificate of weights and measures and issuance of seizure memos by using android based Tablet Computers on-the-spot. During the current financial year, 3,92,175 traders have been covered so far.

At present 5 Benches of West Bengal State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission are functioning, 3 in Kolkata and 2 Circuit Benches, one at Siliguri and another at Asansol. The CONFONET Scheme is going on in full swing through all 26 Districts Commissions and the 5 Benches of West Bengal State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. Regular Lok Adalats are being organized by the WBSCDRC and all the District Commission every year. This year it has been held on 11.12.2021. During this financial year, 2021-22 (upto 31/12/2021), total number of cases filed before all the

Consumer Commissions in West Bengal are 4,563 and the number of disposed cases are 2,382. Consumer Commissions in West Bengal have disposed of 1,67,284 no. of cases out of the total cases filed 1,89,945, since inception. e-Dakhil Portal, which is the facility of enabling consumers to file consumer complaints electronically has been introduced on the National Consumer's Day on 24th Dec, 2021.

Kreta Suraksha Bhavan under the supervision of this department, an integrated office buildings at Rajarhat, Paschim Medinipur and Uttar Dinajpur have been completed and also office buildings at Murshidabad and at Bankura are about to be completed.

Social Scheme:

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, now I place few proposals for the coming financial year—

Additional allocation for widow pension.:

Hon'ble Members, we can take pride in having the most comprehensive social protection programme in the country. Apart from providing subsidised and free ration and health protection through Swasthya Sathi to more than 10 crore people, today we are providing social pension to more than 70 lakh beneficiaries with an annual financial involvement of around Rs. 9,000 crore. Till now, we have also guaranteed assured income support to 1.53 crore women in the age group of 25-60 years through Lakshmir Bhandar with annual financial involvement of around Rs. 10,000 crore.

Hon'ble Members are aware that apart from providing old age and disability pension, we are also providing widow pension to more than 13 lakh widows with an annual expenditure of Rs.1,560 crore.

Another 8 lakh applications for widow pension have been received through various outreach initiatives like 'Duare Sarkar'. **We are happy to announce that we have decided to provide widow pension to all these 8 lakh applicants from 1st April,2022 taking the total coverage of widow pension to more than 21 lakh. I propose to provide Rs. 960 crore in this year's budget for the purpose.**

Tax exemption proposals:

- (i) In order to provide relief to Tea Industry, Tea Estates and lakhs of tea workers dependent upon tea industry for their livelihood, I propose to exempt payment of Rural Employment Cess (RE) under the West Bengal Rural Employment and Production Act 1976; and Education Cess under the West Bengal Primary Education Act 1973 for the next FY 2022-23. Also, in order to give relief to tea gardens especially small gardens, I propose to waive the Agricultural Income Tax for the next financial year, i.e., 2022-23.
- (ii) Hon'ble members, in order to incentivize investment in battery operated two-wheeler and four-wheeler electric vehicles (BEV), I propose to exempt Registration Fees and Road Tax for the next 2 years from the FY 2022-23.
- (iii) Hon'ble members, in order to incentivize reduction in carbon footprint and to reduce dependence on petrol/diesel, I propose to exempt Registration fee and Road tax on all categories of CNG vehicles for the next 2 years from the FY 2022-23.
- (iv) Hon'ble members are aware that in order to give relief to home buyers, my Government had allowed exemption of 2% rebate on stamp duty and 10% rebate on circle rate of land / property in the financial

year 2021-22. This relief is coming to an end on 31st March, 2022. Home buyers have been very badly affected due to Covid pandemic. Keeping the interests of home buyers in mind, I propose to extend the 2% rebate on stamp duty and 10% rebate on circle rate of land / property for another 6 months upto 30th September, 2022.

5

Conclusion

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

We have made huge success in implementation of different citizen-centric projects and schemes under the leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister.

I am happy to inform this August House that we have been able to implement a unique programme of connecting government with the citizens under the constant guidance of our Hon'ble Chief Minister.

With the visionary leadership of Mamata Banerjee, today our State is one of the most sought after destinations for business and industry. This has opened huge employment opportunities and will help in overall socio-economic development of the state. Let me inform

this esteemed House that, our government has created huge employment opportunities since coming to power by adopting demand stimulating macro-economic policies. The average employment rate from January to February, 2022 of West Bengal (43.09%) is higher than the employment rate (ER) of the country (36.95%) for the same period as per CMIE data. You will be happy to know that we will be able to create 1.20 crore new employment opportunities in next four years in government sector, private sector and different other sectors including self-employment.

Sir, I propose to provide Rs. 3,21,030 crore in the Budget of the Financial Year 2022-23.

Sir, I want to conclude my speech by quoting an inspiring poem of our Hon'ble Chief Minister where she has given a call to the new generation to participate in this huge endeavour.

“নতুন প্রজন্ম আলো দাও, আলো দাও
মুক্ত সকাল ফিরিয়ে আনার স্বপ্নে
তোমরা দীক্ষা নাও।”

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2022-2023

WEST BENGAL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2022–2023

(Rupees in Crore)

	Actuals, 2020–2021	Budget, 2021–2022	Revised, 2021–2022	Budget, 2022–2023
Receipts				
1. Opening Balance	(–)20.08	(–)3.00	(–)20.32	(–)7.00
2. Revenue Receipts	148393.96	186681.26	176031.06	198047.01
3. Raising of Public Debt	75429.06	115672.92	108038.83	114958.52
4. Repayment of loans by PSUs and Government employees	150.15	139.32	171.32	185.41
5. Receipts from Contingency Fund and Public Account	718779.17	740862.75	761053.66	821938.58
Total	942732.26	1043353.25	1045274.55	1135122.52
Expenditure				
6. Revenue Expenditure	177921.28	213436.52	208994.66	226326.68
7. Capital Expenditure	13033.74	32774.20	19175.06	33144.37
8. Repayment of Public Debt	26889.32	61042.65	61512.70	60400.52
9. Disbursement of loans to PSUs and Government employees	2276.75	1473.83	1284.42	1158.37
10. Transfer to Contingency Fund	0.00	0.00	180.00	0.00
11. Expenditure on Contingency Fund and Public Account	722631.49	734633.05	754133.71	814094.58
12. Closing Balance	(–)20.32	(–)7.00	(–)6.00	(–)2.00
Total	942732.26	1043353.25	1045274.55	1135122.52

(Rupees in Crore)

	Actuals, 2020–2021	Budget, 2021–2022	Revised, 2021–2022	Budget, 2022–2023
Net Results—				
Surplus (+)/ Deficit (–)				
(a) On Revenue Account	(–)29527.32	(–)26755.26	(–)32963.60	(–)28279.67
(b) Outside Revenue Account	29527.08	26751.26	32977.92	28284.67
(c) Net, excluding Opening Balance	(–)0.24	(–)4.00	14.32	5.00
(d) Net, including Opening Balance	(–)20.32	(–)7.00	(–)6.00	(–)2.00
(e) Expenditure for New Programmes/Additional Outlays				
(i) On Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(ii) Outside Revenue Account	..	..	..	..
(f) Additional Resource Mobilisation under Tax Revenue	..	..	..	..
(g) Net Revenue Deficit	(–)29527.32	(–)26755.26	(–)32963.60	(–)28279.67
(h) Net Surplus/Deficit	(–)20.32	(–)7.00	(–)6.00	(–)2.00

