

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB



SPEECH

OF

MANPREET SINGH BADAL

FINANCE MINISTER, PUNJAB

PRESENTING

the

Budget For The Year 2017-18

to the

Punjab Vidhan Sabha

CHANDIGARH

JUNE 20, 2017

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

As I rise before you and this august assembly to present the maiden budget of the Indian National Congress Party Government led by Captain Amarinder Singh Ji, I am suffused with feelings of gratitude as well as vulnerability; with a sense of good cheer tinged with melancholia; with the consciousness of the mind and heart of the weight they carry; with a sense of frailty as well as hope and optimism. In fact, the challenges that face the State are truly daunting and require all the strengths and virtues associated with our Punjabi heritage viz. dynamism, vitality and the never-say-die optimism to surmount the problems that we have allowed-over time-to loom over us and which now threaten to overwhelm us.

2. History teaches us that a nation is defined by the character and culture of its people and not by the topography and geography associated with the regions within its boundaries. Over the centuries, the names of innumerable cities and countries have disappeared and lie forgotten in the annals of history. Yet, despite having faced some of the fiercest challenges known to mankind, the name Punjab - the Land of the Five Rivers - has persisted since antiquity. For centuries, Punjab has sent millions of its finest sons into great danger, to fight for the dignity and freedom of this nation and its people. All we have ever asked for, in return, is enough land to bury those sons that did not return. And it is not land, but courage, that is the solid foundation on which this ancient, land was built.

3. Mr. Speaker Sir, the greatest privilege of my life has not been to bear any particular office, but to have served Punjab, and to have played a part in the effort to augment the nobility of this ancient land. True nobility is exempt from fear, and Punjab has since time immemorial been known to be a land of brave men. When brave men are confronted with adverse fortune, they do not cry or cower before it, but confront its blows with resilient hearts. Men of courage are also full of faith, and today we ask the people of Punjab to have faith that together, with the strength endowed to us by our forefathers and the blessings of God almighty, we shall overcome the hurdles that lie in our path.

4. Because it is fair to say that in recent years Punjab has made mistakes. Everybody makes mistakes, but only fools persist in their error. It is the task of this Government, led by Hon'ble CM Captain Amarinder Singh Ji, to rectify those errors, put Punjab back on the path of progress and enable this state and its talented people to regain our lost magnificence. And it is not by muscle, speed, or physical dexterity that great things are achieved, but by reflection, force of character and wise judgment.

5. In ancient Greece, Socrates had to consume hemlock to shake the Greek people out of their stupor. Nearly a century ago, a young man of this land, whom we know as Shaheed Bhagat Singh, kissed martyrdom at a tender age, because he wanted to shake the conscience of the people. The Government of Captain Amarinder Singh Sahib finds inspiration in them and in our own modest way, this Government wants to stir the people of Punjab.

6. I am reminded of the hauntingly beautifying lines of the great poet Allama Sir Mohd. Iqbal. I quote in original:-

ਪਿਰੋਨਾ ਏਕ ਹੀ ਤਸਬੀ ਮੇਂ, ਇਨ ਬਿਖਰੇ ਹੋਏ ਦਾਨੋਂ ਕਾ, ਗਰ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਹੈ ਤੋ
ਇਸ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਕੋ ਆਸਾਨ ਕਰਕੇ ਛੋਡੁੰਗਾ।
ਦਿਖਾ ਦੁੰਗਾ ਜਹਾਂ ਕੋ ਜੋ ਮੇਰੀ ਆਖੋਂ ਨੇ ਦੇਖਾ ਹੈ,
ਤੁਜੇ ਭੀ ਐ ਸੂਰਤੇ ਆਈਨਾ, ਹੈਰਾਨ ਕਰ ਕੇ ਛੋਡੁੰਗਾ।

Pirona Ek hee Tasbi Mein, En Bikhrey Hoe Dano Ka,
Gar Mushkal Hai Toh Iss Mushkal Ko Aasan Karke Chhodunga.
Dikha Dunga Jahan Ko Jo Meri Aakhon Ne Dekha Hai,
Tuzey Bhee Aee Surte Aaiena, Hairan Kar Ke Chhodunga

(Stringing these scattered beads in one rosary,
is difficult though, surmounting odds I will ease it out.
Will show to the world, what my eyes have been,
O mirror of my face, I will leave you dazzled too)

7. The task of the Finance Minister is never enviable, especially in Punjab where fiscal prudence is the need of the hour. But I do believe that we desperately need to wed the traditional Punjabi love for extravagance and magnanimity with our famed pragmatism and down to earth ability to take difficult decisions. The task of this Government is that of a canary that guides the coal miners from the darkest recesses of the earth outwards towards light. We have no doubt that in the discharge of our responsibilities; Government led by Hon'ble Captain Amarinder Singh Ji may count on the whole hearted cooperation of every member of this august house.

8. The primary objective of our Budget is to provide a clean and an efficient administration to the people of Punjab and to restore to the State its original stature as the pride of India. We would like to reiterate our firm resolve to eradicate poverty, to provide social justice as well as for the uplifting of the scheduled castes, the backward classes and the other weaker sections of the society. The Government is fully committed to secularism and shall ensure that communal harmony and public peace and order are maintained at all costs

9. The Government faces the daunting challenge of fulfilling its promises to the people of Punjab under extreme budgetary pressures. In the first year, our focus will be twofold: to gradually reduce the crushing burden of debt that the State is under and to restore its fiscal health while at the same time taking immediate measures to ensure efficient use of resources already allocated by minimizing waste and improving accountability. We are to achieve this by gradually expanding and strengthening the financial resource base and improving the delivery of public services by making sure that our schools and other educational institutions improve significantly their performance. We shall ensure that our hospitals offer better services and the offices that deal with and deliver public services enhance their efficiency greatly. To achieve this, here again, my Ministry will look to the leadership and guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the cooperation of my Cabinet colleagues and the vast Government machinery as well patience, cooperation and fortitude of the people of the Punjab. I am reminded of the beautiful words of a great poet from the Punjab:-

ਨਾ ਰਹਾ ਚਾਂਦ ਸਿਤਾਰੋਂ ਕਾ ਮੈਂ ਮੁਹਤਾਜ ਕਭੀ,
ਅਪਨੀ ਮੇਹਨਤ ਕੇ ਸਦਾ ਮੈਨੇ ਉਜਾਲੇ ਦੇਖੇ,
ਤਜ਼ਕਰਾ ਉਸ ਨੇ ਲਕੀਰੋਂ ਕਾ ਵਹੀਂ ਛੋਡ ਦੀਆ,
ਜਬ ਨਜ਼ੂਮੀ ਨੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਹਾਥੋਂ ਕੇ ਛਾਲੇ ਦੇਖੇ।

Na Rha Chand Sitaron Ka Main Muhtaz Kabhi,
Apni Mehnat Ke Sada Maine Ujale Dekhe,
Tazkra Uss Ne Lakiron Ka Wahin Shodh Dea,
Jab Najumi Ne Mere Hathon Ke Shale Dekhe.

(I have never been beholden to the stars and planets.
I have always seen the light of my endeavours.
The astrologer Immediately left analysing the lines on my palm.
The moment he saw the blisters of my hands).

10. I can invite attention here only to the leading facts of our state finances. Details have been set forth with elaborate care in the lucid Explanatory Memorandum by the Finance Secretary. I must attempt a survey un-encumbered by details to help Hon'ble members to form a definite and sure picture of our finances.

STATE ECONOMY AND STATE FINANCES

Mr. Speaker Sir,

11. A White paper on the State's finances has already been presented to this august house. Without sounding pessimistic, it is my duty to present the real position of the state finances before the people of the state.

12. Our Government assumed office on 16th March, 2017. During the first week of its taking over the Government realized that the position of the State finances was extremely alarming and precarious to say the least. The seriousness of the financial situation of the State could be gauged from the fact that the RBI stopped honouring the payments of the State Government and unfortunately, the treasury had to be closed during the fag end of the financial year 2016-17 where as in the normal course this is the time of the year when maximum funds are released. This happened for the first time in the history of the State and perhaps the rarest occasion when RBI had to take such a drastic step.

13. The GSDP of the State has increased from ₹1,27,123 crore in 2006-07 to ₹4,27,870 crore in 2016-17. However, I must add that this increase also includes the increase attributable to the change of base year from 2004-05 to 2011-12. I am hoping the State's GSDP to grow to ₹4,65,608 crore during the year 2017-18. As per advance estimates, the GSDP at constant prices is expected to grow at 5.93% in the year 2016-17, which is less than the national growth. Though the per capita income of the State has increased to ₹1,28,821 in the year 2016-17, the State could not maintain the growth rate of 15.70% in per capita income achieved in 2006-07. Punjab had led the country consistently for a long period of time in per capita income; however, the State has been left behind in this race by other States now. And the comparisons are not very encouraging.

FISCAL CONSOLIDATION

14. A fiscal consolidation map for all states was one of the major recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. The State was required to limit its fiscal deficit within 3% of its GSDP. Unfortunately, this has not happened and rather than achieving the target of 3% of GSDP, the fiscal deficit has jumped to 13.89 % during the year 2016-17. In the given circumstances, I could only keep a target of fiscal deficit at 4.96% during the current financial year 2017-18. I am aware of the provisions of the FRBM Act 2003 relating to containing the Fiscal Deficit. However, given that the State is likely to miss this target, as per Section 6(2) of the Act, I am informing this august house of the position.

15. The previous Government while demitting office left huge pending liabilities of ₹13039 crore for expenditure already incurred. This includes unpaid liability of Atta-Dal scheme of ₹1747 crore, Dearness Allowance of ₹2773 crore, and unpaid power subsidy amounting to ₹ 2342 crore. Bills amounting to ₹7791 crore lapsed on 31-03-2017 as the treasury did not have funds to honour these bills. The Revised Estimates (RE) for 2016-17 indicate that the previous Government left a Revenue Deficit of ₹11362.02 crore and a Fiscal Deficit of ₹59449.56 crore which is 2.66% and 13.89% of GSDP, respectively. The actual position would be known only after we receive the actual accounts from the Accountant General, later this year.

16. Fiscal prudence demands that each state should generate surplus revenue and deploy it in addition to the borrowings for capital expenditure in the resource generating assets. However, the state has been experiencing heavy revenue deficit in the last decade and the revenue expenditure has shown a phenomenal increase.

17. The trend in increase of the State's Revenue Expenditure shows that the Revenue Expenditure has increased from ₹18544 crore in 2006-07 to ₹62733.81 crore in 2016-17 (an increase of 238%). During the same period, Expenditure on Salaries rose from ₹5783 crore to ₹19800 crore (an increase of 242%), on pensions from ₹ 1905 crore to ₹8140 crore (an increase of 327%) and on Interest from ₹4152 crore to ₹11982 crore (an increase of 189%). Thus the growing share of salary, pensions and

interest payments in its Revenue Expenditure prevented the State from achieving a Revenue surplus.

18. Despite my best efforts, I have only been able to peg the revenue deficit at 3.18% of GSDP in the year 2017-18. However, we remain committed to reducing this deficit consistently and getting the state into an era of revenue surplus.

DEBT POSITION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

19. Hon'ble Members are fully aware that our Government has inherited a heavy debt burden from the previous Government. The details have already been presented in the White Paper. When this government took over, it was welcomed with the additional liability of ₹29919.96 crore (as on 31st March 2017) in the form of loans to settle the so called CCL (Cash Credit Limit) legacy accounts. As a result the State Government shall have to bear an additional ₹270 crore per month resulting in an annual liability of ₹3240 crore for the next twenty years. Further, the government of the day had been forcing agencies like PIDB, RDB, PUDA and others to incur debt on its behalf. Most of the time this debt was used for purposes beyond the mandate of that agency.

20. I wish to bring it to the notice of this August House, that this settlement of the so called legacy accounts and all borrowings that have been done by entities like PIDB, RDB etc. in a period which is six months before the Assembly elections are due is in direct contravention to the provisions of section 4(4) of the FRBM Act, 2003.+

21. The total outstanding debt of the State on 31.03.2017 is ₹186618 crore including the informal debt of ₹4435 crore which has been raised by the State Government through various agencies without the approval of Government of India. Apart from this, the State Government has also been extending sovereign guarantee for loans raised by various PSUs and other organizations. The total liability on this account is ₹20608 crore on 31.3.2017. In case the PSUs fail to return this debt, sovereign guarantee extended

by the State Government, it is a Government's liability. The total outstanding debt and contingent liabilities, thus, comes to ₹207226 crore which is 403.38% of Revenue Receipts for 2016-17 (RE) at ₹51371.79 crore.

22. Often, Governments like to take comfort in a reducing Debt/GSDP ratio. However, this comfort could be misplaced. While, an increased GSDP could improve this ratio, the debt could still be rising. Further, Government could still fail to take advantage of increased Revenue mobilisation because of a tardy tax administration. This has been the case with Punjab.

23. Sir, it is important to highlight the analysis of the growth of VAT receipts in the background of growth of GSDP. It is a matter of serious concern that the growth of VAT receipts has been constantly declining from 32% in 2010-11 to a meagre 3% in 2015-16. In addition to this, if inflation is factored in for the year 2015-16, in real terms the VAT receipts have registered a negative growth of 2%. A comparison with other states such as Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, reveals that they have recorded CAGR of 14% in the same period whereas Punjab had registered a below average CAGR of only 9.62%.

24. Unfortunately, the debt servicing (Principal + Interest) for 2017-18 is a whopping ₹22396 crore against a net borrowing limit of ₹12819 crore approved by Government of India for financial year 2017-18. This leaves absolutely no room for the State to invest the borrowed money into development and build resource generating Capital assets.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

25. Our problems are critical. The tide is unfavourable. The news will be worse before it gets better. There may be setbacks before the tide is turned. But turn it we must. The hopes of all Punjabis rest upon us, whether they live here or anywhere else in the world. We pray that we may be worthy of the unlimited opportunities that God has given us.

26. My optimism and faith lies in one of the biggest tax reforms in our country's history which is the introduction of GST from 1st July 2017. Experts have opined that Punjab being a Consumption State stands to gain by this destination based tax.

With optimism I propose the following sectoral allocations and new initiatives that are in the road map of our party's commitment to the people of Punjab. I now present the sector wise proposals along with the new initiatives.

AGRICULTURE

27. For long, Punjab has focused on increasing agriculture productivity for ensuring India's food security, however, this has been at a huge cost to Punjab and it has degraded our natural resources of soil and ground water. High productivity increases can thus no longer be sustained. The Agriculture sector is facing serious challenges. In due course of time the increased agriculture production in other states will dampen the demand for Punjab cereals. We have to act fast and act now. With economic prosperity, consumer preferences will shift to more protein rich diets, further attenuating the demand for Punjab food grains. In the last three years, the central government has announced insignificant increases in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) as compared to the first three years of UPA government.

28. Climate is changing faster than anticipated leading to more volatile extreme weather events impacting yields and resulting in crop failures. The priority of the central government for decades has been to placate the consumer and control food inflation. The primary mitigation tool remains the farmer. Punjab being a primary producer will continue to bear the brunt of central government priorities. It is a foregone conclusion that incomes of farmers cannot be increased by simply growing crops for the Central pool. We shall have to chart a completely new course. Our government shall do all that is available at its command to increase the prosperity of the farmer. For us the key is "prosperity of the farmer" and not just "increasing productivity".

29. Over the next year, we will re-orient our policies and support systems to directly improve livelihoods of the distressed small and marginal farmers. Despite being a

leader in agriculture sector, Punjab has had no stated Agriculture Policy. The Farmers' commission will submit a New Agriculture Policy for the state of Punjab, within the next two months.

30. Farm extension services have literally collapsed in the last 10 years and the shortfall in staff has been about 50%. This has compelled farmers to be deceived into over-use and misuse of chemicals. We shall make a road map for revival of the extension services. Our priority is to annually reduce by 10% the use of chemicals by farmers and input cost thereof.

31. We propose to give thrust to organic farming and support one demonstration plot in each block of Punjab which will be owned and operated by organic farmers by involving farmer organizations.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

32. If there is a section of the society which is facing utmost distress in the state, it is the proud Punjabi farmer who has toiled for generations to secure this Nation. Punjab is one of the most debt ridden States in country. It is unfortunate that the Punjab farmer who produces food grains and is the 'Ann Datta' and has been feeding the country for the last 70 years, had to undergo mental stress and has often been forced to take the extreme step by committing suicide. One of the first action that this government initiated was to salvage the farmer out of its debt burden. An Expert Committee has already been constituted which is working on the contours of the detailed scheme. However, till such time that I receive a report of this Committee, I am proposing an outlay of ₹1500 crore for waiving the debts of the distressed farmers in Punjab.

33. To underline our priority to the Agriculture sector, I propose to increase their allocation by 65.77% from ₹6383.01 crore in 2016-17 BE to ₹10580.99 crore in 2017-18 BE.

34. This Government will lay major emphasis on development of horticulture in the state to encourage diversification and breakaway from the rice-wheat cropping pattern.

This will not only help in improving the prosperity of the farmers but would also improve the sustainability of the state's agriculture. I believe that we need to have a specific focus on the horticulture department and to that extent we propose to set up a new Punjab State Horticulture Marketing Board so that the requisite focus is granted to this highly important sector to diversify agriculture and improve farmers' prosperity.

ANIMAL HUSBANDY AND FISHERIES

35. When one closely examines the contribution of the agriculture sector alone in the primary sector, almost 70% of the agriculture sector is contributed by only 4 crops i.e. wheat, paddy, sugarcane and cotton. Punjab's economy is thus primarily a cereal economy. The contribution of the allied sector is only 31%. There is hardly any value addition in the cereal sector whereas contribution of the sectors like Dairy, Horticulture, Forestry, Fishing and Livestock, to the economy is on the decline as compared to pure agriculture. Thus, there is need to diversify in other allied activities. For the development of other species of animals in the State, Government Piggery Farm Nabha (Patiala) is being upgraded and modernized. Two new pig breeding farms are being established at Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur.

36. We wish to give a new thrust to this sector by linking the farmer to the industry. To that effect, the state shall converge the Dairy, and animal food products processing industry with the Dairy farmers, piggery farms and fish farms to launch an era of prosperity in Rural Punjab. Keeping this in view, Milk plants at Mohali, Jalandhar and Amritsar will be modernized with an investment of ₹110 crore. It will increase the milk handling capacity from 20 lakh litres per day to 25 lakh litres per day by the end of 2017-18.

AGRICULTURE CREDIT

37. The Government is committed to strengthening the institutions of rural credit. In order to compete with bigger banks in a better way and assume a greater role in the rural credit arena, all the 20 DCCBs will be amalgamated with the Punjab State Cooperative Bank. The CRAR of the Cooperative banks, which is ranging from 9% to

10%, will thus improve. With the increase in CRAR, the bank will be able to lend about ₹8000 crore to ₹10,000 crore more to the farmers. To smoothen the functions, the accounts of PACS will also be computerised. This will bring transparency and efficiency in the functioning of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies.

FARMER FIRST

38. Agriculture production has almost reached a plateau given the technology in the sector at present; the farmers' agriculture income can thus be increased, only by providing better marketing facilities to the farmers and reducing the gap between producer and consumer. For this purpose, the Agriculture Produce Marketing Act is being amended to ensure the direct access of the National and International market to the farmer.

39. The Punjab Farmers Commission is being reconstituted, strengthened and reorganized as a statutory body to provide for farmers rights and frame policy.

RELIEF

40. The farmer puts in lots of hard work and labour in raising his crop. However, his crop is normally at the risk of vagaries of weather. His fully matured crop gets damaged due to untimely rain, hailstorm or other natural calamities at times. The Government realizes the loss of income to the farmers due to such uncertainties of weather. The Government has therefore decided to increase rate of compensation (Kharaba) from the present level of ₹8000 to ₹12000 per acre.

AGRICULTURE INSURANCE

41. The State has not adopted the Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojna because the scheme does not suit the State of Punjab due to certain infirmities. The reasons include lower indemnity level and non provision of increase in cost of cultivation during drought and loss due to unseasonal rains in Rabi crops as well as the losses incurred during the marketing of crops in the mandis. The State Government has therefore, decided to

constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of Farmers' Commission to study the insurance schemes relating to Agriculture Sector and for setting up of a Punjab Agriculture Insurance Corporation in the State.

EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

42. One of the most famous economists of this century Thomas Piketty, perhaps, the foremost proponents of the theory on why inequality is increasing not only in the developed World but also in the developing World (including India/Punjab) says and I quote:

“Historically, the main equalising force-both between and within Countries – has been the diffusion of knowledge and skills. However, this virtuous process cannot work properly without inclusive educational institutions and continuous investment in skills. This is a major challenge for all Countries in the century underway”.

43. We have always believed that a merit based society is one whose foundations rest on education and equal opportunities to education. We shall come out with a New Education Policy very soon.

44. We need to bring innovation and efficiency in this sector. On this depends the future of Punjab. You can rebuild roads, bridges, canals & infrastructure even if you miss a time period, but I am afraid you can't rebuild a generation, if you do not invest on it at the right time.

45. Starting with the Primary Schools, I propose to allocate ₹21 crore this year to ensure that every Government Primary School in the state has furniture.

PADHO PUNJAB PADHAO PUNJAB

46. Though, Punjab has already achieved access to all for primary education long time back, however, the quality of education which our children are getting in Government schools still remains a cause of concern. This Government is fully committed to improve the quality of education and in that direction various initiatives are being taken. One of the reasons for poor quality of education among the schools is the lack of involvement of community particularly the academia, intellectuals or NRIs. Punjab has sent a large number of NRIs abroad and most of the NRIs want to repay their community particularly the schools. Apart from NRIs, the academia, professionals and other persons of a particular area/village who have got education from their village schools and are settled in high positions both in Government and private sector, would be engaged to go back to their alma-mater and contribute in their own way. Under the scheme PADHO PUNJAB PADHAO PUNJAB the community participation and particularly of NRIs shall be encouraged and facilitated. The Department of School Education will coordinate the efforts with all such people.

47. The state would make all the efforts to enhance the quality of education by implementing various activities in the schools and also provide free text books and uniforms.

COMPUTERS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

48. In this era of Information Technology, it has become essential that our children going to Government schools are not deprived of these facilities. Punjab has been a pioneer in initiating the ICT education in schools since 2003-04. This is the time to introduce computer education in the primary schools of the State as well. During the current year, we have provided a budget of ₹10 crore to provide computers in the Government Primary schools.

GREEN BOARDS

49. Inadequate quality of Teaching Boards (blackboards) is one of the reasons that the teachers find it difficult to teach the students. This inadequacy has been duly taken care of in this budget. Under the scheme, Green Boards shall be provided in all Government Primary schools. I propose an allocation of ₹5.25 crore in this regard.

ENCOURAGING EXCELLENCE

50. There is no dearth of quality and well trained teachers in Punjab. However, good performing schools need motivation and recognition. Realizing this, the State Government has felt the need to honour the Best Primary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools and Sr. Secondary Schools. For this purpose, an award has been instituted for best Government Primary school in each block (216), one each for best Government Middle School, High School and Sr. Secondary School in each district. An outlay of ₹9.27 crore has been provided in the budget for this purpose.

HIGHER EDUCATION

51. Apart from school education, we also propose to put our focus on Higher education. Panjab University which was set up in 1822, is a symbol of our heritage and pride. It is one of the oldest Universities in India. Over the years the grant to Panjab University has been dwindling to the extent that they are finding it difficult to meet their day to day requirements. Today, we also face extreme constraint on our resources. Nonetheless, I propose to enhance the grant to Panjab University from the existing ₹26 crore to ₹33 crore in 2017-18.

52. Our Government has also decided to provide free internet connectivity in all the 48 Government Colleges.

53. Government has also decided to set up 5 new degree Colleges in the educationally backward areas of the State. It is unfortunate that State is nowhere near

the southern states in which gross enrolment ratio in higher education is much higher. To address this issue, a provision of ₹15 crore has been made, in this Budget.

54. Punjabi is our mother language and we will do our best to preserve & promote it. To that extent, I propose to set up a Central Institute for Promotion and Development of Punjabi Language at Talwandi Sabo. This institute will undertake activities like digitization and Standardization of Punjabi Language, research, translation of significant works of Punjabi to other languages and vice-versa. A suitable initial budgetary outlay has been made in the Budget for the purpose, and I assure that funds would never stand in the way of promoting Punjabi.

55. With the growth in ICT, it is important that our students not only have access to knowledge on the Web but are also connected to the libraries across the world. We have decided to allocate an amount of ₹5 crore in 2017-18 for the Central State Library at Patiala. This amount will be utilized for setting up an e-library of national standards in its premises, and also upgrading its infrastructure.

56. Government Mahindra College, Patiala is one of the oldest colleges and was set up in the year 1875. Similarly Government College Kapurthala was established in the year 1856, Government College Malerkotla in 1926, Government College Hoshiarpur in 1927, Government College Amritsar in 1932 and so on. The Government is committed to restore the pristine glory of these Colleges. So, we are making provision of ₹10 crore for infrastructure development of Historic Government Colleges in the State, this year.

57. Urdu is a Language which is associated with our rich culture and we propose to give a sum of ₹3 crore this year for the Urdu Academy at Malerkotla, for the promotion of Urdu.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

58. Punjab Government has started an important scheme "Chief Minister Scholarship Scheme" for every section of the society. Under this scheme, students shall be provided 70% to 100% scholarship as per their competence.

59. A Regional Vocational Training institute for Girls and a Regional Directorate of Apprenticeship shall be established at village Saneta, District Mohali.

60. In a major initiative to provide gainful employment to youth of the State, Government shall establish a Skill University in the State for employment oriented training.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE OF SCs, BCs & MINORITIES

61. Our Government remains conscious of its responsibility to the weak and disadvantaged groups of the Society. The State Government is paying a monthly pension of ₹500 per month to 14.50 lac old age persons, 1.70 lac dependent children, 1.90 lac disabled persons and 3.80 lac widows and destitute women. The total annual liability for 21.90 lac beneficiaries is to the tune of ₹1314 crore. Much, as I wish, I am hugely constrained by the fiscal stress of the state treasury and therefore, striking a balance, I propose to raise the pensions to ₹750 per month for all the categories, from the current level of ₹500 per month.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ACID ATTACK VICTIMS

62. The State Government is sensitized of the trauma experienced by the acid attack victims and has initiated a comprehensive strategy to provide security and financial assistance to all the Acid Attack Victims in order to make them self-reliant. Under this scheme financial assistance @ ₹8000 per month shall be provided to the Acid Attack victims.

63. Sir, Once again the legacy of fiscal stress is holding us back, nonetheless, I propose to enhance the 'Ashirwad', at the time of marriage of SC/BC/Christian Girls/Widows/Divorcee and daughters of widows of any caste at the time of their marriage to ₹21,000 from the current level of ₹15,000.

64. To encourage and foster entrepreneurship among our youth from the Scheduled Castes & Backward Classes, loans are provided by the Punjab Scheduled Castes

Finance Corporation & BACKFINCO. Both these Institutions are feeling a constraint on further loaning on account of poor recovery of the loans extended earlier. To support these Financing Corporations & to re-start the credit cycle to stimulate entrepreneurship, I propose to provide ₹17.66 crore to the Punjab SC Finance Corporation & ₹2.44 crore to BACKFINCO to waive off the existing loans for these sections of our society.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

65. Please allow me to reiterate our Government's strong commitment to the upliftment of the Women, Children and other Disadvantageous groups. I must add that despite our financial constraints, I have earmarked a total budget of ₹3604.65 crore for the Social Security sector for the year 2017-18. An increase of 9.50% over the last year.

DEFENCE SERVICES WELFARE

66. Our Government is fully committed to welfare of Ex-Servicemen and at the same time we wish to use their services in improving governance at the grass roots. To that extent we are launching a scheme "Guardians of Governance", aimed at ensuring efficient and effective implementation of government schemes at the grass roots. We propose to harness the available pool of distinguished Ex-Servicemen who are spread across the state and have proven track record of rendering yeoman service. This scheme will increase the transparency, community participation and stake-holders ownership of the various initiatives of the government ensuring that the benefits reach the distressed and downtrodden sections of the society. I propose to make an initial allocation of ₹20 crore for this scheme, in 2017-18.

67. Sainik School, Kapurthala was set up with the objective of preparing boys to join the National Defence Academy and the Indian Armed Forces. I propose to make an allocation of ₹10 crore as grant for the school as our endeavor to build institutions that prepare Punjabi youths for joining the Armed Forces.

ARMED FORCES PREPARATORY INSTITUTES

Mr. Speaker Sir,

68. It is my privilege to share the happy news that 25 cadets from Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute have cleared the NDA entrance exam this year and are joining National Defence Academy in a few days. Out of these, one cadet (Shashank Sharma) is at All India Rank 1 and one cadet (Armaandeep Singh) is at All India Rank 8. 12 cadets of the institute are in the top 100 in the merit list.

69. Punjab has had the privilege of guarding India's fine and ancient civilisation for thousands of years. It is with searing pain and sorrow that we find young people do not want to serve the military any longer. To arrest this trend, the government has decided to set up another new Institute General Sham Singh Attariwala Armed Forces Preparatory Institute at Amritsar this year, for preparing youth to join the Armed Forces so that Punjab regain its title of "The Sword Arm of India". An initial budget provision of ₹5 crore has been made for this purpose, this year.

70. I am also proposing a new scheme that will provide a grant of ₹1 Lac to every school and college whose students qualify for joining the National Defence Academy and the Indian Military Academy. The scheme is also open to Sainik School Kapurthala & Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute.

SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS

Sports University

71. Punjab has been a premier sporting state of India. We all are aware that physical activities and sports are an integral part of Punjabi culture. These translate into benefits of health, social cohesion, economic activity, cultural enrichment and improved quality of life. Therefore, we propose to take following measures for the development of sports in the state:

- Setting up of a University for Sports Promotion at Patiala;
- To identify sports' talent for future- a collaborative activity will be organized every year in schools;
- Sports Awards and Incentives to the beneficiaries will be disbursed annually.

Mobile Phone to the youth:

72. In order to encourage and incentivise youth to use digital technology in day to day life, the Government will give free Smart Mobile Phones to the youth. This will enable the youth, among other things, to be a beneficiary and a partner in efforts to digitize Punjab through the Digital Punjab Initiative. I have proposed an allocation of ₹10 crore this year to provide these smart mobile phones to youth.

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND TRAINING

73. Our government has accorded top priority for development of Employment Generation Infrastructure and job creation. An amount of ₹91 crore has been provided for the development of Employment Generation & Training programme for the year 2017-18 against the outlay of ₹13.77 crore for the year 2016-17.

74. Rozgar Atey Karobar Bureaus shall be established in all the districts to carry out fresh surveys for preparation of Annual Employment Plans and its time bound implementation.

SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH ROZGAR SIRJAN YOJNA - APNI GADI APNA ROZGAR

75. We have a large number of unemployed youth in the State. The unemployed youth are prone to all type of risks including drug addiction, and even falling prey to unscrupulous elements. We have made a commitment to the people of the State that we will create 1 lac additional jobs every year. In this direction, the State Government is going to launch Shaheed Bhagat Singh Rozgar Sirjan Yojna-Apni Gadi Apna Rozgar. Under the scheme, a tie up with international operators like M/s Ola and M/s Uber has

already been made. It is envisaged that 3 lac jobs would be created during the next 5 years under the scheme.

SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH ROZGAR SIRJAN YOJNA- HARA (GREEN) TRACTOR SCHEME

76. Under this a tractor along with other agriculture implements will be given to 25,000 youths for self-employment in agriculture services.

SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH ROZGAR SIRJAN YOJNA-YAARI ENTERPRISES

77. The State Government is launching another scheme namely Shaheed Bhagat Singh Rozgar Sirjan Yojna-Yaari Enterprise to address unemployment. Under the scheme, either the individual or the group of individuals can identify any enterprise for which the State Government will provide all necessary assistance. The State Government has decided to give a 3% interest subvention to the youth. The detailed scheme is being prepared in consultation with the banks. I have made a budget provision of ₹ 50 crore for the purpose during the current financial year for this scheme. It is envisaged that the additional 1 lac jobs would be created under this scheme during this year.

SETTING UP OF ROZGAR ATEY KAROBAR BUREAUS

78. Our government will set up Rozgar Atey Karobar Bureaus in every district to help the unemployed youth and underemployed to access employment, education training, upgrading skills and other support services to succeed in the labour market and also to match the requirements of the employers. An Employment Commission is being set up under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to review and monitor the employment generation schemes in the State. The District Bureaus will be run in a professional manner and will have support cells facilitating on line registration, development of entrepreneurs and overseas employment. I have kept a budget provision of ₹10 crore in 2017-18 to initiate this scheme.

HEALTH and FAMILY WELFARE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

79. I am reminded of the simplest of the famous quote, "Health is Wealth". Unfortunately, not only did the state lose its financial wealth in the last 10 years but more importantly lost its health to two of the most potent maladies, cancer and drug addiction. To restore the health of all the citizens of Punjab, while some new initiatives are being taken, some of the existing would be reinforced and remodelled to address the problem in a focussed manner. New tertiary level infrastructure is being created in the field of cancer and drug de-addiction in the State Medical Colleges.

80. Sir, I propose to allocate ₹1358 crore which is 14.21% higher under Medical and Public Health in 2017-18 against the budget estimates of the year 2016-17. The main allocations in health sector are as under:-

- ₹777 crore: For providing affordable and accountable health care services to the community under National Health Mission Programme.
- ₹38 crore: For providing emergency response services (108-Ambulance Services) medical helpline (104) in the State.
- ₹30 crore: For treatment of cancer patients under CM Cancer Relief Fund.
- ₹100 crore: Universal Health Insurance for the under privileged people.
- ₹50 crore: creation of cancer and drug de-addiction treatment infrastructure.
- ₹ 50 crore: Establishment of Primary Rural Rehabilitation & Drug De-addiction centres in the State.
- ₹ 50 crore: Tertiary Care Cancer Centre.

81. A new re-structured Universal Health Insurance Scheme is being introduced, also covering tertiary care treatment which was previously not covered and was causing bigger financial shocks due to hospitalization. In addition to this, primary care and secondary care coverage will be there along with accidental and disability cover. The scheme will help in a big way in the reduction of Out of Pocket Expenditure of the masses in the State of Punjab, which are quite high. An initial provision of ₹100 crore has been made for 2017-18 to implement this scheme.

82. A new Medical College will be opened and set up at SAS Nagar (Mohali) with an additional outlay of ₹10 crore in 2017-18. This will help people of Punjab to have better health facilities and will also help to reduce the shortage of doctors. For providing better health care for Cancer patients, Tertiary Care centres are being set up with the cost of ₹50 crore at Fazilka and Hoshiarpur. ₹100 crore has been provided for upgradation of infrastructure in the Government Medical College and Hospital, Patiala for providing better facilities to the people.

83. The State will give special focus on health of children and adolescent in the age category of 0-18 years under Baal Swasthya Karyakaram. Twice a-year, screening of the children in Aaganwari Centres, Government and Government Aided schools will be done for 30 diseases through dedicated Mobile Health Teams. Identified children suffering from any disease will be sent for advanced screening at 5 district Early Intervention Centres and treatment of such children will be provided free of cost even up to Medical College level, hospitals/Private empanelled hospitals. The State has earmarked ₹42.42 crore for this programme during the year 2017-18.

84. The State has planned to transform approximately 3000 centres in rural and urban areas as 'Health & Wellness Clinics'. These Clinics will ensure preventive as well as limited curative services. The programme will be implemented in a phased manner and this year itself 200 centres will be made operational. Adequate provisions in this regard have been made under the National Health Mission scheme.

INDUSTRY

85. One of the most important elements of our strategy to rebuild the state's economy, create jobs for our youths, increase incomes and prosperity & consequently address the social ills of our state is building an eco-system for the industry to expand, thrive, flourish and create jobs.

86. The State Government is going to offer a new Industrial & Investment Policy giving special focus on revival of the existing industry. The new policy shall be a radical departure from the earlier policies ushering bold reforms, restructuring institutions, and shall present a holistic strategy for industrial growth of the State. Our Vision is to develop the State as one of the most economically developed States in the Country and make it the best State for doing business.

87. The new Industrial Policy aims to consolidate and provide further impetus to manufacturing (Cycle and Cycle Parts, Automobiles and Auto components, Light Engineering, Leather and Sports Goods, Petro-Chemicals, Secondary Steel, NRSE Equipment), Textile and Apparel, Agri and Food Processing, IT and Electronics, Life Sciences and Pharmaceuticals, Aerospace and Defence, Warehousing and Logistics, Tourism and Hospitality, Entertainment and Film Industry & Healthcare.

88. Industrial Parks and Industrial Estates would be brought under one agency and all the necessary amenities and common facilities for effluent treatment, design facilities, convention and exhibition centre, warehousing and logistics services amongst other facilities will be provided in these estates. A Hi-tech Cycle Valley with state of the art infrastructure, common facilities will be developed at the cost of ₹ 400 crore.

89. The State Government has also plans to develop 16 Specific Industrial Parks.

90. Punjab has a strong base of MSME units and they play a crucial role in providing large employment opportunities at comparatively lower capital cost. The State would set up a dedicated organisation "MSME Punjab" for developing and upgrading various MSME clusters to make it a highly vibrant and dynamic sector by providing common

facilities in partnership with SPVs. There is also a plan to set up MSME Facilitation Councils at regional level at Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar and Patiala for providing effective facilitation services to MSME units.

91. New industrial hubs shall be set up in District Sangrur and Ludhiana to provide developed industrial infrastructure to the new industry and to the existing industry for expanding their capacity.

STARTUP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

92. Startups and Entrepreneurship are crucial for the future growth of State's economy. The State will start a Startup movement and Entrepreneurship development to unleash the creative and innovative streak of its new generation. The state will set up the following:

- Technology Business Incubator (TBI) at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU).
- Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs) in 4 districts, namely, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Bhatinda and Fazilka.

93. The State also aims to develop industrial infrastructure along the AKIC and also in the Banur- Shambhu- Ghanaur belt through planning and laying of state-of-the-art infrastructure.

94. Amritsar has long been known as the trading hub of the region and a logistics hub shall be developed at Amritsar, to restore the prominence of Amritsar as a trading centre.

95. In order to encourage Women Entrepreneurs, the state shall launch a special scheme WISH (Women Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Start ups and Handholding) and I propose to have an initial outlay of ₹2 crore for this scheme.

96. The industry at Ludhiana has a long standing demand of setting up an exhibition cum convention centre. An exhibition cum convention centre would be set up at Ludhiana in PPP mode in partnership with the industry.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

97. The State has already set up “Invest Punjab”, a unified regulator vested with the powers to grant regulatory clearances across 23 departments. The State would further expand its ambit and provide similar setups at the district level. For this purpose, MSME Punjab Kendras would be set up that would facilitate Investment Promotion, Regulatory clearances, Fiscal Incentives to MSMEs, and Start-ups.

PUNJAB CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AUTHORITY (PCSRA)

98. With the inception of the New Companies Act, 2013, it is now mandatory for some Companies to spend 2% of the average net profit of the previous 3 financial years on a range of activities aimed at maximizing social welfare under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

99. However, most of these activities carried out in the past under this mandate have failed to leave any substantial impact due to lack of synergy between the efforts of private sector and the priorities of the Government. We propose to set up a Punjab Corporate Social Responsibility Authority (PCSRA) to create a sustainable mechanism to channelize the CSR contributions from various Government PSUs as well as Private Sector Companies for optimum utilization of the CSR Fund through its convergence with the sectoral priorities of the government.

HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

100. The Real Estate sector is a vital part of the state's economy and provides employment to a large number of people. Real estate sector is all the more important in a rapidly urbanizing state such as ours, which is seeing un-regulated growth. The last 10 years have been very bad for the real estate industry in Punjab. The slowdown in

real estate has had an adverse impact on the economy as a whole. People have high expectations of the government of Hon'ble Captain Amarinder Singh Ji. Our government is committed to remove obstacles in the growth of this sector and fulfill the basic need of the people of Punjab for affordable housing.

101. This government, in an attempt to revive and boost the real estate sector and provide a house to the houseless in the state, has already taken a number of initiatives.

102. The fees charged for transfer of ownership of plots/houses has been reduced from 2.5% to 2%. Over a year's moratorium has been allowed on payment of ₹574.40 crore recoverable from the promoters of colonies in the state as External Development Charges (EDC). The annual increase in various charges has also been deferred for 3 years.

103. As a major step to boost this sector, I propose to reduce the stamp duty on registration of property in urban areas by a massive 3% from the existing 9% to 6%. This measure will remain in place till 31-3-2018 and will be reviewed thereafter based on its impact on the sector.

HOUSING FOR POOR

104. Our government is committed to providing free built-up houses to houseless poor urban SC/BC families in the state. Construction of 2000 houses for eligible families would be taken up during the year 2017-18. Land for construction of such houses shall be made available free of cost by the state government. I have made an initial provision of ₹25 crore for this scheme in urban areas. A similar allocation of ₹25 crore has been made for providing houses to the houseless rural poor as well. This Government has also increased the reservation for Scheduled Castes from 15% to 30% in all government schemes pertaining to the allotment of plots/houses in the state.

NEW URBAN ESTATES

105. Our Government will take up the development of new residential urban estates and industrial estates at various places in the state, including Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Amritsar and Ludhiana, even as it expedites ongoing projects. An amount of ₹2020 crore will be spent on various development works in the state including OUVGL works and development of Urban Estates by the PUDA & other development authorities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

106. The outlay of the Urban sector has been increased from ₹2268.18 crore to ₹4610.59 crore, an increase of 103.27% over the previous year. This includes the programmes of Smart Cities, AMRUT, Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Fund and Swachh Bharat Mission. Project proposals have been prepared to provide surface water for drinking purposes in Amritsar and Ludhiana. All Municipal Towns/areas would be made open defecation free by March, 2019. For this purpose, 117645 individual household toilets would be built. The four cities of Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Patiala will be developed as 'Smart Cities' during the next 5 years.

107. The department proposes to make huge citizen centric reforms. The procedure for change of land use and building plan would be simplified. The concept of 'one approval one charge' will be followed. LED lighting will be provided in the Municipal towns so as to reduce the expenditure of local bodies on lighting. Sufficient parking space will be created in the urban areas. Necessary provisions in Building Byelaws will be made to make arrangements for sufficient parking spaces. Multi-storey parking will also be considered for congested areas. Building Bye laws will also be amended to make them citizen friendly.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

108. The State Government is committed to the all round development of rural habitats through the provisioning of basic amenities and creation of Rural Employment opportunities. An amount of ₹686.83 crore has been earmarked for "Rural Development and Panchayats" for the year 2017-18. The State Government is successfully implementing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) in all the Districts and an amount of ₹313.23 crore has been provided for the financial year 2017-18 under MGNREGA.

109. An amount of ₹208.33 crore has been earmarked for the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana scheme in year 2017-18.

110. A budgetary allocation of ₹19.75 crore has been provided for 2017-18 for the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission.

111. Under the "National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)", an amount of ₹9.55 crore has been provided for 2017-18.

112. The main objective of "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana" is to conserve and develop natural resources of the land like soil, water, vegetation and its proper utilisation for crop production and to enhance livelihood opportunities of landless community at village level. An amount of ₹52.74 crore is provided for the year 2017-18 to treat 74600 hectare land.

113. Some of the other allocations in Rural Development for 2017-18 are as follows:

- ₹9.19 crore: Construction of cremation grounds in villages.
- ₹28.15 crore: Construction of toilets in the rural areas.
- ₹10.84 crore: For basic amenities / purchase of land for burial ground / grave yard for Christian and Muslim communities.

PARADIGM SHIFT IN DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL AREAS

114. The Government intends to shift its focus on development of infrastructure in rural areas from top down approach to demand driven based on ground level planning and beneficiary oriented approach especially by concentrating on deprived sections and destitute instead of mere financial investment in infrastructure. Based on Antyodaya concept, all the deprived sections and destitute living in rural areas who were historically been ignored will be assisted through the convergence of all the existing schemes/programs being implemented by various departments through introduction of a new scheme called PENDU SARV JAN HITKARI YOJANA. The preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) of all 13,000 panchayats in the state based on ground level planning will ensure that the infrastructure works carried out with the help of various funds made available in rural areas like 14th Finance Commission, under which an amount of ₹1103 crore is to be spent in near future for the infrastructure development in rural areas, will be as per the felt need at the ground level.

WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION

SWACHH PUNJAB, SWASTH PUNJAB

115. Punjab Government has launched Mission “Swachh Punjab, Swasth Punjab” in rural areas of state to achieve the goal of clean and healthy state by ensuring that all house hold in the villages have access to clean and safe water supply and achieve freedom from open defecation.

116. The State Government is emphasising on transformation of the Rural Water Supply sector in Punjab by focussing on enhanced hours of supply and providing 100% piped water supply to every rural house. Accordingly, State Government has decided to provide piped water connection to each household by March 2019. To achieve this target, an enhanced allocation of ₹450 crore has been proposed in 2017-18, under the World Bank Aided Punjab Rural Water and Sanitation Sector Improvement Project. Further under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), an allocation of ₹50 crore has been proposed for the year 2017-18.

117. Various villages/habitations of Punjab are facing water quality issues. To meet minimum need of water for safe drinking & cooking purposes, it is proposed to install 275 new RO plants in various water quality affected habitations at the cost of ₹33 crore, under the NABARD project in 2017-18. Further, an amount of ₹39.35 crore is being proposed in 2017-18 to install Water Treatment Plants in 429 Water Quality affected habitations, out of which 175 area affected by Arsenic and 254 are affected by Fluoride contamination.

118. As we all know open defecation poses serious health hazards including stunting among children and women face indignity and shame while going in open to attend the call of nature. Therefore, State Government has decided to eradicate this evil of in the rural areas of the State by December, 2017. I propose to provide an additional ₹300 crore under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Gramin) in 2017-18 in this regard for the rural areas of the remaining 13 districts of state.

119. The State Government is providing an incentive of ₹12,000 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), and additional incentive of ₹3000 from state resources to every house hold in rural areas who are without toilet to construct a toilet of their choice and stop open defecation.

120. The importance that this government attaches to provisioning of these basic facilities to the people is evident from the fact that I have proposed an outlay of ₹873.35 crore for this department, an increase of 116.70% over the previous year.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

121. Post the harvesting of paddy crop, the management of paddy straw is a major problem with the farmers to get their land re-cultivated again for another crop. Some of the farmers burn paddy straw in their fields which causes higher level of smoke pollution and creates health related environmental problems. To overcome this problem, the state Government proposes to take two initiatives to stop the burning of paddy straw. The following new schemes have been proposed for 2017-18.

PADDY STRAW MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE FUND

122. Punjab generates about 20 million tons of paddy residue every year. Only about 4 million tons of paddy residue is being utilized through alternative methods such as fuel in biogas plants, brick kilns, boiler furnaces etc. In order to promote innovation in this field and identify new technologies, an amount of ₹5 crore is being allocated for a Paddy Straw Management Challenge Fund for Innovation.

INCENTIVES FOR GRAM PANCHAYAT FOR ZERO BURNING OF PADDY STUBBLE

123. As long as viable alternative solutions for management of paddy straw do not emerge, in-situ management of paddy residue will remain one of the best methods of managing the paddy residue. To motivate, encourage and to reward the Gram Panchayats to stop burning of paddy straw, I propose to allocate a sum of ₹20 crore in 2017-18.

FORESTRY & WILDLIFE

124. The Government has initiated the process to carry out plantations over an area of 8000 hectare during 2017-18. A nature park at Mattewara Forest, Ludhiana is being established for creating awareness about the importance of Forest, Wildlife and Environment.

TRANSPORT

125. The Transport Department shall soon come out with a policy to incentivise the use of electric vehicles. This would encourage more people to shift to these less-polluting vehicles. Over time, this would not only increase revenues for the state but also reduce pollution within the State.

IRRIGATION AND POWER

126. For Punjab, Irrigation is the life line of Agriculture. However, the inadequacy of canal irrigation has led to the over use of ground water that has resulted in the depletion of scarce ground water resources and soil health.

127. The rejuvenation and revamping of canal network will be a thrust area of the State Government. A composite project of ₹4128.43 crore for Extension, Renovation & Modernisation of canal system in the State has been submitted to CWC & JICA for approval and release of funds.

128. Under the River Management Activities and works related to Border Areas which is fully funded by the Government of India, a consolidated Project Proposal for flood protection works to be executed along with Indo Pak Border on River Ravi and its tributaries, to check erosion of cultivatable land, village abadies & defence installation is in the pipeline.

129. The CWC has technically approved the project for Canalisation of Swan Nadi falling in Punjab portion downstream of Santokhgarh Bridge to its confluence point in river Sutlej at the upstream of Thana Bridge near Sri Anandpur Sahib. The work of this project is likely to be started soon.

130. . The other projects to be under taken during the year are:

- Integrated Project to address water logging problem in South-Western Districts of Punjab at a cost of ₹128 crore.
- Project for relining of Rajasthan Feeder with an outlay of ₹100 crore.
- A Consolidated Project proposal for flood protection works to be executed along the Indo Park Border on River Ravi and its tributaries, to check erosion of cultivable land, village abadies & defence installation, will be executed at a cost of ₹50 crore this year.

- Construction of field channels on Kotla Branch Phase-II with an outlay of ₹94.73 crore in 2017-18
- ₹81.38 crore for System Rehabilitation with concrete lining of Bist Doab Canal System (Minors)
- Rejuvenation / upgradation / reconstruction of main branches of various water courses of Sirhind Feeder Canal in District Sri Mukatsar Sahib with an outlay of ₹55.30 crore.

131. This Government proposes to generate economic activity along the rivers and construct a high speed economic corridor on their banks by canalisation of the three major rivers of the State. This would give flip to development of the hinterland areas and spur growth and employment of these geographical tracts.

132. In order to facilitate the local industry and focus on revitalising the ground water system in the State, a State Ground Water Authority (SGWA) shall be set up during the year.

133. The State run utilities PSPCL and PSTCL shall strengthen the Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution network through investment of ₹3156.69 crore in 2017-18

TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

134. Punjab is the land of Gurus, saints and seers. The cosmopolitan spirit of Punjab is symbolized by the rich diversity of faiths, which people of the State profess. It has a rich heritage which needs to be preserved at all costs.

135. Our Government has chalked out a plan to conserve/preserve the rich heritage of Punjab. Department of Cultural Affairs has prepared a detailed project report of Quila Mubarak Patiala and Fort at Bathinda in which all world-class tourist facilities, up-

gradation of museum etc. would be carried out. I propose to allocate ₹26 crore for this purpose in 2017-18.

136. To inspire the new generation about its heritage, Heritage Festivals would be organized and a sum of ₹7 crore has been earmarked for this purpose during the year 2017-18.

137. The Government foresees a great opportunity in creating employment in this sector. This will be based on the theme "Sabhyachar ton Rozgaar te Karobar". The investment proposed to be made for the promotion and conservation of culture will directly and indirectly benefit the State. This will also increase the tourist footfalls thereby increasing the revenue of the State and also boost its economy.

138. A Multi-Disciplinary Project would be set up on the River Holy Bein. This project would embrace not only the environmental aspect but also take into account the religious, cultural as well as tourist potential of the areas. In this regard, an amount of ₹3 crore has been provided in this year.

BRAND IMAGE AND PUBLICITY PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS OF TOURIST PLACES

139. There is a great potential for tourism in the State. Unfortunately, the same has not been harnessed optimally particularly when Punjab has such a huge Punjabi NRI diaspora. Tourism provides clear and eco-friendly employment. To boost tourism in the State, marketing and promotional activities are to be undertaken globally in a big way so that tourism potential of Punjab, is highlighted in the quarters where it matters and for this, an amount of ₹5 crore has been proposed during the financial year 2017-18.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

140. In the 70th year of India's independence, Government of Punjab wishes to pay tribute to thousands of young men who fought for India's freedom, who must have left their beautiful wives, smiling children, green fields and happy homes, so that people of India could live a life of honour and dignity, a cultured life and a prosperous life. I humbly announce that Government of Punjab has decided to provide 300 units free of cost electricity to every freedom fighter's home.

HOME AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE

141. This Government continues to give high priority to maintaining communal harmony, peace, law and order. The state has long hostile international border, we are aware of the threats posed by cross border terrorism and shall continue to maintain vigil and strengthen our resolve to fight the forces that threaten peace, unity and integrity of our nation.

142. We shall continue our support to the modernisation of the police forces and the strengthening of the justice system. Despite the immense resource constraint, I am proposing the following for some of the schemes during 2017-18.

- ₹75.00 crore: Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary.
- ₹15.00 core: Prevention of crime and improvement of Police Public Relations.
- ₹34.77 crore: Crime and criminal Tracking Networking System.

POLICE STATIONS

143. There are number of Police Stations which are either in dilapidated condition or are functioning from buildings which have not been designed or built as Police Stations.

Some of the Police Stations buildings are also incomplete. Construction of 70 police stations shall be taken up as also completion of 23 incomplete buildings this year. This shall be carried out by the Punjab Police Housing Corporation with the support of HUDCO. I am sure that this shall go a long way in creating basic administrative set up for effective and efficient policing.

WOMEN SAFETY

144. Today, women safety has become an area of concern for the society. Day by day crime against women is increasing. It is unfortunate that 50% of our population still does not consider itself safe. To ensure that the young girls and women are not stalked by unscrupulous elements, the police shall create a robust mechanism, I have provided suitable allocation in the budget for installing CCTV cameras at suitable locations namely at High Schools, Senior Secondary Schools and Colleges, as part of this mechanism.

INTEGRATION OF VARIOUS HELP LINES- Dial 100

145. There is need to integrate the various help lines, 100 (police), 1091 (Women help line), 1097 (disaster relief), 1091/1098 (children help line), 101 (fire) and 108/104 (medical and health related help lines). Some of the State has already integrated these services. There is a definite advantage in integrating the emergency response systems. This will reduce resource constraints of the local police. We propose to set up a centralised, rapid response system under the scheme 'Dial 100' by converging the existing resources. I have also provided an initial additional allocation of ₹10 crore for the implementation of this scheme.

FORENSIC INFRASTRUCTURE

146. One of the important elements of the justice system is effective investigation of crime that leads to bringing the guilty to justice. For strengthening and up-gradation of Forensic infrastructure with the objective to improve the conviction rate, a budget provision of ₹7.85 crore is being made this year.

NRI AFFAIRS

Friends of Punjab- Chief Ministers Garima Gram Yojna

147. A large number of Punjabis with their sheer hard work, dedication and commitment have established themselves successfully in all spheres of life on foreign soils. These Punjabis have not only helped the state and national economy but have also brought laurels by making contribution across many fields. Many of our NRI brethren feel an urge to connect themselves to their roots in Punjab. The State Government therefore, has taken a new initiative by launching a scheme 'Friends of Punjab'. Under this scheme, NRIs would be encouraged to connect with their villages. Adequate support shall be provided for implementing this scheme during the year.

OMBUDSMAN

148. A lot of NRIs face problems either relating to their property or other matters. The NRIs come to the State only for a short period during a year and cannot afford spending long time. With the objective to redress their grievances effectively in a time bound manner, the State Government is bringing a new legislation to create an 'OMBUDSMAN' for NRI Affairs, to redress the grievances of the NRIs.

149. The State Government is committed to the welfare of NRIs in the State, and proposes to enact 'NRI Property Safeguards Act' for safeguarding the property of NRIs for ensuring rule of law and easy and quick delivery of justice in the State.

DIGITAL PUNJAB INITIATIVE

150. The Government in its efforts to bring efficiency, transparency, accountability, ease of availing services by the residents and to curb corruption in public service delivery intends to launch Digital Punjab, a project that envisions complete back-end computerisation of all Government departments and digitisation of legacy data for providing Government to Citizen (G2C) and Government to Business (G2B) services in a time bound manner. The project will be scaled up by including more services over the

next two years. Digital Punjab would also integrate electronic payments & receipts, Mobile Apps while undertaking comprehensive Government process reengineering (GPR) to ease the G2C services. With the launch of Digital Punjab initiative all Citizens and NRIs will be able to avail a variety of services from the comforts of their homes from any corner of the world thereby eliminating the need to visit the Government offices. The Department of Governance Reforms will provide the technical assistance to all departments to realise the vision of this Government.

FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES

MODIFIED ATTA DAL SCHEME

151. This Government has given top priority to the welfare of weaker sections of the society and will also ensure that prices of all the essential commodities remain within the reach of the common man. The Atta Dal Scheme will be restructured and a modified scheme will be launched using Smart Ration Cards to the beneficiaries. Apart from this, Tea leaves and sugar shall be provided to BPL families. An amount of ₹500 crore has been provided for this in 2017-18.

BORDER AREA INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

152. The Border districts of the state have suffered a lot and have lagged behind due to their proximity to the international border, due to wars with Pakistan and a long spell of cross border terrorism. Farmers living in Border areas face acute hardship as they cannot cultivate cash crops. The problems are compounded by inadequate accessing facilities to the farmers after the erection of fencing along the International border. Border areas are also lacking in basic amenities of Education, Health, Sanitation, Transportation, Roads etc. The lack of environment for development of industries and marketing infrastructure has further accentuated the problems of the local population. Manufacturing sector in the state especially in the border belt has been rendered totally uncompetitive due to tax sops offered by the Government of India to the neighboring states of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

153. Recognizing the development needs / hardships being faced by the people of the border area, our Government is formulating a special Border Area Infrastructure Development Programme with an outlay of ₹300 crore in 2017-18, for upliftment of this area which would inter-alia include creation of new social and industrial infrastructure. Under the New Industrial Policy of State special incentives will also be provided to the development of these areas. This is in addition to ₹85 crore provided under Centrally Sponsored Scheme under a similar programme in which State share is ₹40 crore.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr. Speaker Sir,

154. We all owe it to our future generations to leave this Mother Earth in a better position for them. While Energy is an important ingredient for any developing economy, we must use more and more energy from renewable energy sources.

155. We are committed to main streaming the Renewable Energy projects & systems for meeting the energy needs of farmers & community at the village level by installation of Renewable Energy systems i.e. Solar Pumps, Solar Street Lights, Solar Photovoltaic Rooftop plants etc. This year we plan the Solarisation of 2000 Agriculture pump sets in the State of Punjab with an 80% subsidy component. Given the resource constraint I am proposing a budgetary provision of ₹100 crore in this regard for 2017-18.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

156. The village Chowkidars generally come from the poor sections of the society doing every duty assigned to them by the village community at odd hours. The village Chowkidars have been assisting the State Government functionaries and the village panchayats also since long. It is felt that the honorarium given to the Chowkidars needs to be enhanced and accordingly, the Government has increased the honorarium given to the Chowkidars to ₹1250 per month. Approximately 10540 Chowkidars would be benefited by this decision.

CIVIL AVIATION

157. The Regional Connectivity Scheme will be implemented by providing air connectivity with the four airports of Bathinda, Adampur, Ludhiana and Pathankot. The State Government will bear the pro rata cost of Viability Gap Funding with the Government of India as per the MoU signed.

158. The State Government will also provide the basic services and subsidized aviation turbine fuel to make the air services fully functional.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

159. This government is committed to building robust road and bridges infrastructure & more importantly maintain the existing one. While we want to do a lot more, we are constrained by the lack of resources at our disposal this year. Nonetheless, I propose to make an allocation of ₹873.17 crore for the Public Works Department for construction and maintenance of new roads, bridges & buildings.

EXCISE & TAXATION

Goods and Service Tax (GST)

160. The Parliament of India has already passed the crucial taxation bills of Goods and Service Tax (GST). Punjab has been at the forefront of supporting an early introduction of GST. The migration of existing tax payers to GST is already underway. For smooth introduction of GST in the State, the Department of Excise & Taxation has undertaken a massive outreach programme through more than 100 workshops for interaction with tax payers and professionals in making them aware about the proposed tax reform. We shall provide all facilitation and help to the Trade and Industry in ensuring a smooth transition to GST regime. The State shall also appoint a Tax Ombudsman to address the grievances of the trade and industry, objectively and impartially.

161. GST would be the important structural change in our Tax administration. It will have huge impact on the movement of goods and services across the country and I envisage that Punjab would gain with the introduction of GST through a broadened Tax base and improved compliance. Since GST would come into effect from 1st July 2017, I don't propose to make any change in the Tax structure, at this stage.

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

162. The total Budget size for the year 2017-18 is ₹118237.90 crore. However the effective Budget size is ₹90737.90 crore as the above figure contains a budget provision of ₹27500 crore towards Ways and Means transactions for the current year. The total Receipts are likely to be ₹105514.84 crore. The details are as follows:

Sr. No.	Item	Revised Estimates 2016-2017 (₹ crore)	Budget Estimates 2017-2018 (₹ crore)
1	Revenue Receipts (2+3+4+5)	51371.79	60079.87
2	State's Own Tax Revenue	30251.85	39526.28
3	State's Own Non-Tax Revenue	6260.58	3224.95
4	Share of Central Taxes	9599.7	10650.64
5	Grants-in-Aid from Centre	5259.67	6678
6	Capital Receipts (7+8+9)	84031.02	45434.97
7	Public Debt excluding Ways and Means Advance	55630.24	17855
8	Ways & Means Advance	27500	27500
9	Recovery of Loans	900.78	79.97
10	Total Receipts (1+6)	135402.81	105514.84
11	Revenue Expenditure (12+13+14+15)	62733.81	74864.74
12	Salaries and Wages	19799.96	20872.3
13	Pension and retirement benefits	8140.16	10147.23
14	Interest Payments	11981.71	14910.49
15	Other Revenue Expenditure	22811.98	28934.72
16	Capital Expenditure	6117.46	6157.08
17	Repayment of Public Debt excluding Ways and Means Advance	5291.86	7485.96
18	Repayment of Ways & Means Advance	27500	27500
19	Advances of Loans	42870.86	2230.12
20	Total Expenditure (11+16+17+18+19)	144513.99	118237.9
21	Revenue Deficit (11-1)	11362.02	14784.87

22	Fiscal Deficit (21+19+16-9)	59449.56 (-13.89)	23092.1 (-4.96)
23	Primary Deficit (22-14)	47467.85 (-12.12)	8181.61 (-2.09)
24	Outstanding Debt	182183.01 (-42.58)	195002.05 (-41.88)
25	GSDP at Current Prices	427870	465608

163. According to the Budget Estimates, the Fiscal Deficit for the year 2017-18 (BE) is 4.96% of GSDP is beyond the limit of 3% set in the FRBM Act, 2003. We have not been able to contain the Fiscal Deficit at 3% of GSDP mainly due to the additional debt servicing liability and the dilapidated finances that we have inherited. As of now the net borrowing limit of the state has been fixed at ₹12819 crore, by RBI. This leaves a funding gap of ₹10273 crore this year. This gap would need to be covered during the course of the year through Additional Resource Mobilization (ARM) and control of revenue expenditure. I would like to first see the impact of GST on the resources of the state during the year before I suggest any Additional Resource Mobilization. I also hope that with improved efficiency in tax compliance and administration and efficient delivery of public services, we would be able to economize on the expenditure and thus close the gap which is visible as of now.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

164. The past has been depressing, but the future is bright. I say this with full responsibility, and having had a broad overview of the Punjab since the past two decades. We need to learn from the mistakes of the past, and tighten our belts in the present, to look towards a positive future. The world is full of opportunities, and globalization is bringing these opportunities right at our doorstep. If we continue to cling to the past, it is a tough road ahead. On the other hand if we reinvent ourselves in tune with the changing global realities, Punjabi dynamism and adaptability will ensure that we will be the pioneers in embracing the future.

165. As the Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz said: "Development is about transforming the lives of people, not just transforming economies".

166. We need to focus not on the top 1 percent of the population but on the 99 percent of the population. To quote Joseph Stiglitz again:

"The top 1% have the best houses, the best education, the best doctors and the best lifestyles, but there is one thing that money does not seem to have bought: an understanding that their fate is bound up with how the other 99% live. Throughout history, this is something that the top 1 percent eventually do learn. Too late"

Speaker Sir, My budget is dedicated to those 99 percent.

167. By dreaming, flowers do not bloom in the desert. Mere hopes do not result in rivers of milk and honey. The road to prosperity is laden with sacrifice and hard work.

168. The deepest core of my heart is convinced and it is an affirmative witness to the belief that that we can create a Punjab of our dreams provided we tackle the obstacles and willfully confront our challenges.

169. The issues at hand are great, but not as great as our aspirations. The road is tough, but not tougher than our resolve. The end of the road may be far, but we carry the courage of our conviction.

170. I am confident of the blessings of the Almighty, and my heart and soul provide me with the confidence to proclaim that as per the dreams of Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh, India and Punjab are now about to enter a bright future, that poverty and scarcity will be overcome, that progress and success herald a new day, and that the sacrifices of my countrymen are about to bear fruition.

ਕੋਈ ਕਾਬਿਲ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਹਮ ਸ਼ਾਨੇ ਕਈ ਦੇਤੇਂ ਹੈਂ,

ਢੂੰਡਨੇ ਵਾਲੋਂ ਕੋ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਭੀ ਨਈਂ ਦੇਤੇ ਹੈਂ।

Koi Kabil Hai Toh Hum Shaney Kae Dette Hain,

Dhoodhney Wallon Ko Duniya Bhee Naein Dete Hain.

(If some deserves I raise him to great splendour,

And grant a new World to those with quest).

171. I wish to record my gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh Ji. A friend and a leader of men. Without his unstinted support & guidance, I would not be able to discharge my duties effectively and efficiently.

172. I thank you, Mr. Speaker sir and all the Hon'ble members of this august house for their whole hearted support and co-operation.

173. I must not conclude without a word of appreciation for the department of which I am privileged to be incharge. Hard work is the lot of all in the Finance Department and this has grown steadily in volume and complexity. It gladdens me to convey that the task has been undertaken willingly and with singular devotion to duty by everyone from the junior most of the office staff to all levels of seniority and has thus resulted in a high standard of efficiency and accuracy. Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Mr. Anirudh Tewari and Secretary Expenditure, Mr. Krishan Kumar, will always stand as worthy of special mention in the long annals of the department and the other officers who have given them their best. I must particularly express my indebtedness to our Budget Officer and Staff, including Translators, whose labours are arduous and on whose sincere discharge of their onerous tasks our success rests.

174. On behalf of Government, I wish to record my tribute to valuable help received from Principal Accountant General, Punjab. His standards have been rigorous, but I trust that we will not fail to improve under his vigilant scrutiny.

175. I very much hope that my proposals, while provoking a lively discussion and drawing legitimate criticism of particular detail, will in their entirety meet with the approval of this House. Sir, with these words, I commend the Budget Proposals for the year 2017-18 to the August House for approval.

JAI HIND
