

meted out by the Central Government coupled with short release of funds to the States have adversely affected the financial strength of all the states of the country. As the ruling party in several states are same as that in the Centre, these states are unable to raise voice against the injustices meted out against them. However, it is our responsibility to speak out against the injustice being meted out against the states and protect the rights of the states.

27. As the nation is adversely affected by steep price rise, unemployment and huge income disparities, it is the duty of the State to increase budgetary allocation towards welfare schemes which directly benefit the poor. While such welfare schemes tend to increase the Revenue Deficit, such welfare expenditure is necessary to ensure that fruits of development reach the poorest of the poor. The achievement of revenue surplus is meaningless if the State Government cannot come to the aid of the poor and needy in times of distress.
28. Hence, though I have presented as Revenue Deficit budget, I have increased the budgetary allocation for Welfare programmes to Rs 1,20,373 Crore. Further I have successfully ensured fiscal consolidation by keeping the fiscal deficit within 3% of GSDP and total outstanding liabilities within 25% of GSDP

without compromising the Capital Expenditure.

AGRICULTURE

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29. Making agriculture sustainable and lucrative is our Government's top priority. Keeping this in mind and to encourage integrated agriculture, various schemes related to agricultural sector will be consolidated and a new scheme called Karnataka Raitha Samruddhi Yojane will be started from this year. This scheme will provide the farmers with guidance and support in respect of the following:

- Securing a stable income by taking up comprehensive agriculture inclusive of agriculture, animal husbandry horticulture and dairy farming;
- Selecting crops based on the soil characteristics and market demands;
- Providing information on soil testing and soil characteristics;

- Supporting farmers by raising awareness about new agricultural practices and technologies;
 - Making farmers aware of opportunities related to storage and value addition.
 - Creating market linkages for farmers to get a good price for their produce.
30. Agriculture Development Authority will be created under the chairmanship of Chief Minister to facilitate effective implementation of policies related to agriculture and allied activities. The Authority will also work towards achieving better coordination between Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Fisheries, Cooperation, and Animal Husbandry.
31. Krishi Bhagya Yojane which had become extremely popular during the earlier tenure of our Government has been reintroduced and grants of Rs.200 crore were provided during 2023-24. This scheme will be continued during this year also.
32. In order to preserve locally bred seeds on the verge of extinction, a Community Seed Bank will be established.
33. A new programme called Namma Millet will be started. Under this programme, processed

millets and value-added millets will be made available at affordable prices. The scheme will be implemented with the support of agri-tech companies and retail chains.

34. To promote sustainable agriculture in drought-affected and rainfed areas of the State and for soil and water conservation, 5,000 water bodies will be created over a period of five years.
35. R. K. Shala Agricultural Farm in Bengaluru will be developed under public-private partnership as a Knowledge Centre disseminating agricultural techniques.
36. Action will be taken to introduce farmers to the e-SAP software developed by University of Agriculture Sciences, Raichur to advise them on pests, diseases and nutrient management.
37. The food processing industry plays a crucial role in augmenting farmers' income. A separate Food Processing Directorate will be constituted under the Agriculture Department. The objective of the Directorate will be to avoid wastage of agricultural produce and to help farmers in earning a reasonable price for their crops. All food processing schemes under different departments will now be converged and implemented effectively through the Directorate.

38. To promote the export of agricultural and horticultural produce, measures will be taken to strengthen the Karnataka State Agricultural Products Processing and Export Corporation (KAPPEC). In the current year, Rs. 80 crore is provided under PMFME programme for this purpose.
39. To promote processing, value addition and export of agricultural and horticultural produce, food parks will be established near Airports under Public-Private Partnership. In the current year, food parks will be established at Sogane in Shivamogga district, Ittangihala in Vijayapura District and Pujenahalli village in Bengaluru rural district.
40. Traditional agricultural practices have undergone significant changes in this age of agricultural innovation. A database will be prepared to forecast crop productivity using modern technologies like satellite pictures, sensors, and machine learning algorithm.
41. An Agri Accelerator Platform will be created to impart supplementary training and provide guidance and support to farmer produce organisations (FPO) to strengthen their capacity and improve their performance.
42. An expert committee will be constituted to examine the feasibility of starting an

Agriculture University in V.C. Farm, Mandya district.

HORTICULTURE

43. Kissan Malls will be opened in select districts to provide farmers with horticulture related technical guidance, market connectivity, farming implements and agro-products under one roof.
44. Floriculture is practiced in 40,000 hectares of land in the State. To promote sales and exports of floricultural crops, a well-equipped commercial floriculture market of international standards will be set up in Bengaluru city under Public-Private Partnership.
45. In order to boost processing and exports of horticultural products, post-harvest processing centres (Packhouse) and value addition processing units will be established under public-private partnership.
46. To prevent fatal diseases in Arecanut crop, research and plant protection activities will be initiated in collaboration with Central Government.
47. Awareness programmes will be organised for farmers to identify carbon sequestering horticultural crops that can be sold in

international markets in the form of Carbon Credit thereby helping augment their income.

48. A Spice Park will be developed in Chikkamagaluru district under public-private partnership to encourage spice growing farmers and to promote export of spices.
49. Vijayapura district is renowned for horticulture crops. A College of Horticulture Sciences will be established at Alamela in Vijayapura district. This will further encourage growth of horticulture in this region.

SERICULTURE

50. Ramanagara and Shidlaghatta are known as the largest cocoon markets in Asia. In the first phase, Rs. 150 crore has been allocated to develop them as hi-tech markets. Phase-1 will be completed shortly and Phase-2 will be subsequently taken up at a cost of Rs. 250 crore.
51. Raw silk reelers will be provided a subsidy of Rs.12 crore annually in coordination with Karnataka Minority Development Corporation.
52. An incentive of Rs. 10 per kilo is being currently provided to bivoltine silk cocoon. This will be enhanced to Rs. 30 per kilo.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

53. The following programmes will be implemented under Karnataka Raitha Samruddhi Yojana announced in this Budget;
- Amruta Swabhimani Kurigahi Yojana will be continued in the current year also. 10,000 beneficiaries will be provided financial assistance under this programme.
 - Superior quality of indigenous cattle such as Amruta Mahal/Hallikar/Khilari cattle will be supplied to farmers.
 - In order to encourage dairy farming among women, a 6% interest subsidy will be provided on the condition of timely repayment of the loan availed for buying cow/buffalo.
 - Farmers interested in piggery and poultry will be supported with training and capacity building activities. This will help them in augmenting their income.
54. Veterinary polyclinic facility which is currently available at the district level will be extended in phases to the talukas. In the first phase, 20 taluka veterinary hospitals will be upgraded at a cost of Rs. 10 crore.
55. Many buildings of veterinary department are in dilapidated condition. Many clinics also are

operating out of rented buildings. Therefore, Rs.100 crore will be given for the construction of 200 new buildings for veterinary institutions.

56. To safeguard the interest of nomadic shepherds in the State the following measures will be undertaken;

- The prevention of atrocities on nomadic shepherds and their properties, Act will be enacted.
- Veterinary officers will vaccinate the livestock of nomadic shepherds at their doorsteps.
- Identity cards will be distributed to all nomadic shepherds.
- Preference will be given to children of nomadic shepherds in admissions to Government residential schools and provision of scholarships.

57. The construction of Puttur Veterinary college is in the final stages. It will be operationalised in the current year.

FISHERIES

58. The Government plans to invest Rs. 3,000 crore in the coming years for all-round development of fisheries sector.

Some of the schemes that will be implemented are:

- A fisheries research centre at Manki/ Kasarkod in Honnavar taluka.
- A modern fish market at Bhadravathi.
- Establishment of Aqua Parks.
- A well-equipped fishing harbour at Murudeshwar in Bhatkal Taluk.
- A new Inland Fisheries Skill Development Centre at Alamatti in Vijayapur district.

59. Under Matsya Asha Kiran scheme, the State share in compensation to fishermen affected by seasonal ban on fishing is proposed to be increased from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 3,000.
60. For emergency evacuation of fishermen in the event of health emergencies and accidents, the State's first sea ambulance will be introduced at a cost of Rs. 7 crore.
61. In the year 2024-25, the Government will provide financial assistance to 10,000 houseless fishermen for construction of houses through the various housing schemes of State Government.
62. Modernisation of 16 fish seeds production centres will be taken up at a cost of Rs.20 crore with support of NABARD.

63. Rs. 6 crore will be provided to promote fisheries in mining affected areas of Chitradurga, Holalkere and Hosadurga taluk.

CO-OPERATION

64. Cooperation sector is the lifeline of rural economy and the Government is committed to strengthening this sector. Major policy decisions were taken in 2023-24 to extend the loan limit for interest free short term loan from Rs 3 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. Similarly, the upper limit for medium and long term loans, which are provided at a subsidized interest rate of 3%, was raised from Rs. 10 lakh to 15 lakh. In the current year the targeted lending through the cooperative sector is Rs. 27,000 crore. This will benefit more than 36 lakh famers in the State.
65. To improve the financial health of cooperative banks, the following measures have been undertaken;
- During our last term, a crop loan waiver scheme was introduced under which farmers' crop loans of up to Rs. 50,000 were waived off. Around 21 lakh farmers had benefitted from this scheme. The Government compensated banks to the tune of Rs.7,631 crore in lieu of the crop loan waiver. In spite of this scheme, the

banks had to go through a period of severe financial crisis since the previous Government did not clear the pending dues of Rs.132 crore to the banks. In light of this we have decided to release the pending dues of Rs.132 crore to the DCC banks.

- Our government has decided to waive off interest on medium and long-term overdue loans of DCC and PICARD banks. This will benefit more than 57,000 farmers. As a result of this scheme, the DCC/PICARD banks will be able to recover loans to the tune of Rs.496 crore. The Government will provide Rs.450 crore of financial assistance by way of compensation to the banks under the scheme. This decision will bring about a considerable improvement in the financial condition of these banks.

66. The Karnataka Agricultural Price Commission has identified 26 crops as 'important crops' in the State. However, the Central Government has announced a minimum support price for only 16 of these crops. Hence, we will impress upon the Central Government the need to announce a minimum support price for the other 'important crops' such as arecanut, onion, grapes, mango, banana etc.

67. We appreciate the Central Government's decision to recognize the contribution of M.S. Swaminathan in the field of agriculture by awarding him with the title of Bharat Ratna. In the same spirit, we will request the Central Government to calculate MSP based on the formula of cost of cultivation plus 50 percent profit as recommended by the Swaminathan Committee.
68. Our Government has proposed to bring reservation in management boards of Secondary, Federal and Apex co-operative societies. The concerned Act will be amended accordingly.
69. Co-operation sector plays a pivotal role in processing of agriculture produces, providing market linkages and value addition. To supplement these efforts, the following measures will be taken by the Agricultural Marketing Department;
- Cold storages will be set up in the APMC's of Yalaburga, Basavana Bagewadi, Ranebennur, Ballari, and Gadag at a total cost of Rs.50 crore. In addition to this, cold storage units will also be set up in Raichur and Mysuru at the cost of Rs.40 crore each.

- A dry chilli market will be established in Raichur at an estimated cost of Rs.25 crore. Another chilli market will be started in Ranebennur in the newly developed megamarket which has been developed at a cost of Rs.112 crore in 222 acres.
 - A modern agricultural complex will be constructed at Nellikai Road, Mangaluru, at a cost of Rs. 35 crore.
 - Agricultural produce market committees will be digitized at a cost of Rs. 10 crore.
 - Bio-CNG Plant will be established in markets of Dasanapur of Bengaluru, Mysuru, Hubli, Ballari, Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Belagavi under public private partnership model. These markets will be converted as 'Zero Waste Vegetables Markets'.
 - Electric vehicles charging centres and petrol bunks will be started in APMCs in public-private- partnership.
70. Strengthening of APMCs is critical for financial security of farmers. The Government will undertake the following steps to safeguard APMCs and to protect farmers' interests;
- The Bill for repealing the anti-farmer APMC Act has been passed by the Legislative

Assembly and it is currently under the consideration of the House Committee of Legislative Council. We will make efforts to get the Bill passed in the Council at the earliest.

- A new legislation will be enacted to set up the Marketing Development Assistance Fund. The Fund will be operationalised by obtaining contribution from financially sound APMCs. This fund will be used for the development of financially-stressed APMCs.
 - Support price scheme will be brought under a statutory framework.
71. Weigh bridges will be set up with the support of APMCs near all the sugar factories. This will protect the sugarcane growers against any fraud at the time of weighment.
72. The Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation has been facing a severe financial and administrative crisis. After assuming power, we have provided a special financial package of Rs.376 crore for the completion of 76 warehouses with a capacity of 4.54 lakh metric ton.
73. Cold storages will be set up under PPP model by using the unutilised storage space of

warehouses of Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation.

WATER RESOURCES

74. A separate Project Division and 2 Sub-Divisions have already been set up to implement the ambitious Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and drinking water project of Cauvery river valley. A survey to identify land that will be submerged under this project and the counting process of trees have already been initiated and action will be taken on priority to commence the work early after obtaining remaining necessary clearances from the competent authorities.
75. A pre-commissioning test has been conducted by discharging water to delivery chamber near Doddanagara under Yettihanole Integrated Drinking Water Project. Balancing reservoir work will be taken up in the current year along with completing all the lift components under the scheme as well as discharging water into gravity canal.
76. Priority will be given to land acquisition and resettlement & rehabilitation as well as to complete sub-schemes under North Karnataka's ambitious Upper Krishna Phase-III Project. All necessary legal measures will be taken up along with pursuing the

Central Government to notify the final award of Krishna Tribunal-II.

77. The Central Government had announced grants of Rs. 5,300 crore for implementation of Upper Bhadra Project in its 2023-24 Budget. However, no grant has been released so far. The previous State Government congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister in its Budget for Bhadra Project to be declared as a National Project. However, this has been proved false as the Central Government has not yet declared the project as a national project. Under this project, State Government is planning to bring about 75,000 acre of land in Chitradurga district under irrigation and pursue the Central Government to release the grants as announced in its budget in order to provide benefits to farmers.
78. The Central Water Commission has given clearance to the Detailed Project Report for utilizing 3.9 TMC water under Kalasa-Banduri Nala Diversion Project and further the State Government has begun the tender process anticipating forest clearance from National Board for Wildlife. However, in the meeting of National Board for Wildlife headed by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the forest clearance has been deferred.

79. To address the problem of reduction in water storage capacity of Tungabhadra reservoir due to silt accumulation and also to fulfil a long standing demand of farmers of the area a detailed project report has been prepared for constructing a balancing reservoir near Navali in Koppala district at a cost of Rs. 15,600 crore and consultation with Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States regarding implementation of the project has been started. Priority will be given for the execution of the project.
80. A plan to make Brindavan Gardens at the prestigious Krishnarajasagar dam a world-class tourist attraction will be take up under public-private partnership.
81. Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI) at Dharwad will be upgraded as a Centre of Excellence in Water Management.
82. A scheme will be implemented under Public-Private Parntership for installing solar parks in back waters and lands owned by Water Resources Department on the lines of Pavagada Solar Parks.
83. Ongoing lift irrigation - Budhihal-Peerapur project Phase-1, Sri Venkateshwara and Kempavada Basaveshwara project and tank filling schemes at Mundagodu, Tuparihalla,

Sasivehalli Devadurga and Gurumithkal will be completed in the current year.

84. Works for modernization of 5.45 km canal under ongoing Hemavathi Project Y-Canal and of 166.90 km canal under Tumkur branch canal will be completed during current year. This is expected to improve water usage efficiency.
85. Lift irrigation projects -Yadalli and Ternalli in Kalaburagi, Swarna and Siddapura in Udupi district, Melligeri-Halagali, Sasalatti-Shivalingeshwar-Shiruru, Hanavala in Bagalkot district, Athani-Kottalagi-Ammajeshwari, Shri Channavrishabhendra, Mahalakshmi, Sattigeri, Markandeya of Belagavi district, rejuvenation of old lift irrigation projects of Bylahongala Assembly Constituency and tank fillings schemes of Gunjalli of Raichur district, Alanda of Kalaburagi district, Aurad of Bidar district, Arabhavi, Hirebhagewadi, Santi Bastawada, Kagawada of Belagavi district, Yellapura-Kiravatti of Uttara Kannada district, and Jalavadagi of Gadag district will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 7,280 crore in the current year. Irrigation potential of 97,698 hectares will be created from these projects.

86. Under Krisha Bhagya Jala Nigam-lift irrigation schemes of Keruru of Bagalkote district, Horti-Revanasiddeshwara, Chimmalagi, Mulavada of Vijayapura district, Bhima-Flank of Yadgir district will be implemented at a cost of Rs. 3,779 crore. Irrigation potential of 1,09,350 hectares will be created under these projects.
87. This year, scheme for fillings 38 tanks in Yelaburga-Kukanuru taluka of Koppal district at an estimated cost of Rs. 970 crore and project of providing irrigation facility from Narayana Right bank canal to Pamanakalluru and other areas in Maski taluka of Raichur district at an estimated cost of Rs. 990 will be taken up.
88. Under Cauvery Neeravri Nigama- the works of Hebbakawadi, Nidaghatta, Turuganuru of Visvesvaraya Canal Network, Madavamantri canal of Malavalli taluk and Madduru taluka's Kemmannunala modernisation, lake filling projects of Maraduru of Hunasuru taluka and Hegganuru tank of Kanakapura, water supply through pipeline for Sriranga drinking water project, canals development in Varuna Assembly Constituency, drinking water project

in Mathadahalli of Gubbi, Arkavati River Front Development projects near Ramanagar will be undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,000 crore.

89. To ensure drinking water supply to Kalaburagi city, a scheme at an estimated cost of Rs.365 crore will be taken up in the current year to fill the Bennetora reservoir from Bhima and Kagina rivers.
90. A scheme will be formulated under State Disaster Relief Fund (SDMF) to construct flood protection wall around villages which are flood prone under Bennehalla river in Dharwad District.

MINOR IRRIGATION

91. Due to shortage in rainfall, the designated command area of lakes under minor irrigation is not getting adequate water. Further, there is also a drinking water crisis. Substantial amount has been spent to undertake projects to replenish these lakes with water from nearby rivers. The impacts of these projects on the local groundwater level and social and economic condition of farmers living in the vicinity will be assessed.

92. In the current year, 115 works of Lake development, check dam and bridge-cum-barrage at an estimated cost of Rs. 200 crore will be taken up to ensure adequate supply of water for drinking purposes, agriculture and industry.
93. The ongoing 272 tank filling scheme under KC Valley-2nd Phase will be completed in the current year at an estimated cost of Rs.455 crore.
94. The works will be undertaken for the projects at an estimated cost Rs.850 crore; B.C.B construction to Tungabhadra river near Chikkalaparvi of Raichur district, kurdi lake filling project of Manvi taluka, Mysore district K.R. Nagara Talukas Kesthuru Koppalu Lift Irrigation Scheme, lift irrigation near Devenuru village of Nanjanagudu taluka, lake filling project of Chittapur taluka, bridge-cum-barrage across Varada river of Soraba taluka, Bandaru and Tank filling work in Jevargi taluka and lake/bridge-cum barrage projects in Yelaburga taluka