

Sixteenth Loksabha

an>

Title: The Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs presented a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the year 2018-19.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam Speaker, I rise to present the Budget for 2018-19.

Madam, four years ago, we pledged to the people of India to give to this nation an honest, clean and transparent Government. We promised a leadership capable of taking difficult decisions and restoring strong performance of Indian economy. We promised to reduce poverty, expedite infrastructure creation and build a strong, confident and New India. When our Government took over, India was considered a part of fragile 5; a nation suffering from policy paralysis and corruption. We have decisively reversed this. The Government, led by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has successfully implemented a series of fundamental structural reforms. With the result, India stands out as among the fastest growing economies of the world.

The journey of economic reforms during the past few years has been challenging but rewarding. As a result of the reforms undertaken by the Government, foreign direct investment has gone up. Measures taken by the Government have made it easier to do business in India. Natural resources are now allocated in a transparent and honest manner. There is a premium on honesty. एक समय था जब भ्रष्टाचार शिष्टाचार का अंग बन गया था। आज हमारे नागरिक, विशेष

रूप से नवयुवक वर्ग, ईमानदारी का जीवन व्यतीत करने को तत्पर हैं। The indirect tax system, with the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax, has been made simpler. Benefits to the poor has been targeted more effectively with the use of digital technology. The demonetization of high value currency has reduced the quantum of cash currency in circulation in India. It has increased the taxation base and spurred greater digitization

of the Indian economy. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has changed the lender-debtor relationship. The recapitalized banks will now have a greater ability to support growth. All these structural reforms will help the Indian economy achieve stronger growth in the medium and long term

Indian economy has performed very well since our Government took over in May, 2014. India achieved an average growth of 7.5% in the first three years of our Government. Indian economy is now a 2.5 trillion dollar economy – seventh largest in the world. India is expected to become the fifth largest economy very soon. On Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) basis, we are already the third largest economy.

Indian society, polity and economy have shown remarkable resilience in adjusting with structural reforms. The GDP growth at 6.3% in the second quarter signalled a turnaround of the economy. We hope to grow at 7.2% to 7.5% in the second half. The IMF, in its latest Update, has forecast that India will grow at 7.4% next year. Manufacturing sector is back on the growth path. The services, which is the mainstay of our growth, have also resumed their high growth rates at

8% plus. Our exports are expected to grow at about 15% in 2017-18. We are now firmly on course to achieve a high growth of 8% plus.

We have taken up programmes to direct the benefits of structural changes and good growth to the reach farmers, poor and other vulnerable sections of our society to uplift the under-developed regions. This year's Budget will consolidate these gains and particularly focus on strengthening agriculture and rural economy, provision for good health to economically less privileged, taking care of senior citizens, infrastructure creation and working with the States to provide more resources for improving the quality of education in the country.

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always stressed the importance of good governance. He has articulated the vision of "Minimum Government and Maximum Governance". This vision has inspired Government agencies in carrying out hundreds of reforms in policies, rules and procedures. This transformation is reflected in the improvement of India's ranking by 42 places in the last three years in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' with India breaking into the top 100 for the first time. I would like to congratulate all those who worked to achieve this.

हमारी सरकार अब "ईज ऑफ डूइंग बिजनेस" से आगे बढ़कर देश के जनसामान्य, विशेषकर गरीब और मध्यम वर्ग की जिंदगी को आसान बनाने के लिए, उनकी "ईज ऑफ लिविंग" पर जोर दे रही है। गुड गवर्नेंस का आधार भी यही है कि देश के आम नागरिक के जीवन में सरकारी दखल कम से कम हो।

उज्ज्वला योजना के माध्यम से सरकार देश के करोड़ों गरीबों को मुफ्त गैस कनेक्शन दे रही है। सौभाग्य योजना के जरिए चार करोड़ घरों को बिजली कनेक्शन से जोड़ा जा रहा है। 3 हजार से ज्यादा जन औषधि केन्द्रों में 800 से ज्यादा दवाइयां कम कीमत पर बेची जा रही हैं। स्टेंट की कीमत नियंत्रित की गई है। गरीबों के लिए मुफ्त डायलिसिस के लिए विशेष योजना शुरू की गई है। गरीबों और मध्यम वर्ग को आवास योजनाओं की ब्याज दरों में बड़ी राहत दी जा रही है। सरकारी सेवाएं, चाहे बस-ट्रेन का टिकट हो या कई तरह के प्रमाण-पत्र, सभी को ऑनलाइन उपलब्ध कराने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। दो से तीन दिन के भीतर घर पर आने वाला पासपोर्ट हो, या एक दिन में रजिस्टर होने वाली कंपनी, इससे देश के बड़े वर्ग को लाभ पहुंचा है। सर्टिफिकेट अटेस्टेड कराने की बाध्यता खत्म करने और ग्रुप सी व डी की नौकरी में इंटरव्यू खत्म किए जाने से लाखों नौजवानों के समय और पैसे की बचत हुई है। यह सरकार अनावश्यक नियमों-कायदों के साथ संघर्ष कर रहे हर व्यक्ति को आधुनिक तकनीक का उपयोग करते हुए राहत देने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

Madam, while undertaking these reforms and programmes, we have worked sincerely and without weighing the political costs. Our Government has ensured that the benefits reach the eligible beneficiaries and are delivered to them directly. Many services and benefits are being delivered to the people at their doorsteps or in their accounts. It has reduced corruption and the cost of delivery and has eliminated the middlemen in the process. The Direct Benefit Transfer mechanism of India is the biggest such exercise in the world and is a global success story.

Agriculture and Rural Economy

My Government is committed for the welfare of the farmers. For decades, the country's agriculture policy and programme has remained production centric. We had sought to effect a paradigm shift. The hon. Prime Minister gave a clarion call to double the farmers' income by 2022 when India celebrates its 75th year of independence. Our emphasis is on generating higher incomes for farmers. We consider agriculture as an enterprise and want to help the farmers to produce more from the same land parcel at lesser cost and simultaneously realize higher prices for their produce. Our emphasis is also on generating productive and gainful on-farm and non-farm employment for farmers and the landless families.

अध्यक्ष महोदया, देश के किसानों के अथक परिश्रम का परिणाम है कि आज देश का कृषि उत्पादन रिकार्ड स्तर पर है। वर्ष 2016-17 में लगभग 275 मिलियन टन खाद्यान्न और लगभग 300 मिलियन टन फलों एवं सब्जियों का ऐतिहासिक उत्पादन हुआ है।

अध्यक्ष महोदया, हमारे दल के घोषणा-पत्र में यह संकल्प है कि कृषि को लाभकारी बनाने के लिए किसान भाइयों को उनकी उत्पादन की लागत से कम-से-कम 50 परसेन्ट से अधिक अर्थात् लागत से डेढ़ गुना दाम मिले। सरकार इस संकल्प के प्रति संवेदनशील रही है। रबी की अधिकांश अधिघोषित फसलों का न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य लागत से कम से कम डेढ़ गुना तय किया जा चुका है। अब हमने बची हुई अधिघोषित फसलों के लिए भी इस संकल्प को एक सिद्धांत की तरह लागू करने का फैसला लिया है। मुझे यह घोषणा करते हुए अत्यंत प्रसन्नता का अनुभव हो रहा है कि तय किये गए सिद्धांत के अनुसार, सरकार ने आगामी खरीफ की सभी अधिघोषित फसलों का न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य उत्पादन लागत के कम-से-कम डेढ़ गुना करने का फैसला लिया है। मेरा विश्वास है कि यह ऐतिहासिक निर्णय किसान भाइयों की आय दोगुनी करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम साबित होगा।

हमारी सरकार किसी भी विषय को टुकड़ों-टुकड़ों में नहीं, वरन् समग्रता के साथ सुलझाने की अप्रोच के साथ काम करती है। न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य बढ़ा देना ही पर्याप्त नहीं है। यह अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है कि घोषित MSP का पूरा लाभ किसानों को मिले। इसके लिए यह आवश्यक है कि यदि बाजार में दाम MSP से कम हों तो या तो सरकार MSP पर खरीदी करे या किसी अन्य व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत यह सुनिश्चित करे कि किसान को पूरा MSP मिले। NITI आयोग, केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकारों के साथ चर्चा कर एक पुख्ता व्यवस्था तैयार करेगा, जिससे किसानों को उनकी फसल के उचित दाम दिलवाये जा सकेंगे।

For better price realization, farmers need to make decisions based on prices likely to be available after its harvest. Government will create an institutional mechanism, with participation of all concerned Ministries, to develop appropriate policies, practices for price and demand forecast, use of futures and options market, expansion of warehouse depository system and to take decisions about specific exports and imports related measures.

Madam Speaker, last year, I had announced strengthening of e-NAM and to expand the coverage of the e-NAM to 585 APMCs. 470 APMCs have been connected to e-NAM network and rest will be connected by March, 2018.

More than 86% of our farmers are small and marginal. They are not always in a position to directly transact at APMCs and other wholesale markets. We will develop and upgrade existing 22,000 rural haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs). In these GrAMs, physical infrastructure will be strengthened using MGNREGA and other Government Schemes. These GrAMs, electronically linked to

e-NAMs and exempted from regulations of APMCs and will provide farmers directly to make direct sale to consumers and bulk purchasers.

An Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund with a corpus of rupees 2000 crore will be set up for developing and upgrading the agricultural marketing infrastructure in the 22000 Grameen Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) and 585 APMCs.

The task of connecting all eligible habitations with all-weather road has been substantially completed, and with the target date brought forward to March, 2019 from March 2022. It is now time to strengthen and widen its ambit further to include major link routes which connect habitations to agricultural and rural markets (GrAMs), higher secondary schools and hospitals. The Pradhan Mantrir Gram Sadak Yojana Phase III will include such linkages.

हम वर्षों से यह कहते रहे हैं कि भारत एक कृषि प्रधान देश है। जैसे भारत एक कृषि प्रधान देश है वैसे ही देश के जिले भी किसी न किसी विशिष्ट कृषि उत्पादन के लिए जाने जा सकते हैं। लेकिन हमने इस पर विशेष ध्यान अब तक नहीं दिया है। जैसे उद्योग जगत में क्लस्टर बेस्ड विकास का मॉडल अपनाया गया वैसे ही हमारे जिलों में विशेष कृषि उत्पाद को चिह्नित कर, उन्हें वैज्ञानिक तरीके से क्लस्टर मॉडल पर विकसित करने की आवश्यकता है।

Cultivation of horticulture crops in clusters brings advantages of scales of operations and can spur establishment of the entire chain from production to marketing, besides giving recognition to the districts for specific crops. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare will reorient the ongoing Schemes and promote the cluster based development of agri-commodities and regions in partnership with the Ministries of Food Processing, Commerce and other allied Ministries.

Our Government has promoted organic farming in a big way. Organic farming with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Village Producers' Organizations (VPOs) in large clusters, preferably of 1000 hectares each, will be encouraged. Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) will also be encouraged to take up organic agriculture in clusters under the National Rural Livelihood Programme.

Our ecology supports cultivation of highly specialized medicinal and aromatic plants. India is also home to a large number of small and cottage industries which manufacture perfumes, essential oils and other associated products. Our Government shall support organized cultivation and associated industry. I propose to allocate a sum of Rs.200 crore for this purpose.

Food Processing sector is growing at an average rate of 8% per annum. Prime Minister Krishi Sampada Yojana is our flagship programme for boosting the investment in food processing. Allocation of Ministry of Food Processing is being doubled from Rs.715 crore in RE 2017-18 to Rs.1400 crore in BE 2018-19. The Government will promote the establishment of specialized agro-processing financial institutions in this sector.

Tomato, onion and potato are basic vegetables consumed throughout the year. However, seasonal and regional production of these perishable commodities pose a serious challenge in connecting farmers and consumers in a manner that satisfies both. My Government proposes to launch an "Operation Greens" on the lines of "Operation Flood". "Operation Greens" shall promote Farmer Producers

Organizations (FPOs), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.

I propose to allocate a sum of Rs.500 crore for this purpose....*(Interruptions)*

India's agri-exports potential is as high as US \$ 100 billion against current exports of US \$ 30 billion. To realize this potential, export of agri-commodities will be liberalized. I also propose to set up state-of-the-art testing facilities in all the forty two Mega Food Parks....*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Do not worry.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I propose to extend the facility of Kisan Credit Cards to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to help them meet their working capital needs. इस व्यवस्था से छोटे और सीमांत किसानों को अधिक लाभ मिलेगा।

Bamboo is 'Green Gold'. We have removed bamboo grown outside the forest areas from the definition of trees. Now, I propose to launch a Re-structured National Bamboo Mission with an outlay of Rs.1290 crore to promote bamboo sector in a holistic manner.

Many farmers are installing solar water pumps to irrigate their fields. Generation of solar electricity is harvesting of Sun by the farmers using their lands. Government of India will take necessary measures and encourage the State Governments to put in place a mechanism that their surplus solar power is purchased by the distribution companies or licencees at reasonably remunerative rates.

Our Government set up a Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) in NABARD for meeting the funding requirement of irrigation works. Scope of the Fund would be expanded to cover specified command area development projects.

Last year, I had announced setting up of the Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) for facilitating expansion of coverage under micro irrigation and Dairy Processing Infrastructure Development Fund (DPIDF) to help finance investment in dairy farming. It is now time to expand such focused investment Funds. I, now, announce setting up a Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FAIDF) for fisheries sector and an Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) for financing infrastructure requirement of animal husbandry sector. The total Corpus of these two new Funds would be Rs.10,000 crore.

Our Government has been steadily increasing the volume of institutional credit for agriculture sector on a year-to-year from Rs.8.5 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs.10 lakh crore in 2017-18. I now propose to raise this amount to Rs.11 lakh crore for the year 2018-19.

Presently, lessee cultivators are not able to avail crop loans. Consequently, a significant proportion of the arable land remains fallow and tenant cultivators are forced to secure credit from usurious money lenders. NITI Aayog, in consultation with the State Governments, will evolve a suitable mechanism to enable access of lessee cultivators to credit without compromising the rights of the land owners.

Government will extend a favourable taxation treatment to Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs) for

