



वित्त मंत्री  
भारत  
नई दिल्ली - 110001  
**FINANCE MINISTER  
INDIA  
NEW DELHI - 110001**

### **FOREWORD**

In keeping with the endeavour of the Government of India to promote transparency and accountability, a brochure containing the status of implementation of announcements made in the Budget for 2007-2008 has been compiled. It includes the achievements under the Government's Flagship Programmes including the Bharat Nirman components.

I am happy to place this brochure before the House.

  
**[P. Chidambaram]**

## Table of Contents

S. No.	Para No. (in the Budget Speech of 2007-08)	Subject	Page
1.	* 9	Progress under Bharat Nirman	01
2.	12	Gross Budgetary Support	01
3.	* 13	Allocation for Bharat Nirman	02
4.	¶16	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan	02
5.	¶17	Expansion of coverage under Mid-day Meal Scheme	02
6.	19	Increasing access to secondary education	02
7.	20	National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme	03
8.	¶21	Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission	03
9.	¶23	National Rural Health Mission	03
10.	25	National Aids Control Programme	04
11.	¶26	Eliminating Polio	04
12.	¶27	Integrated Child Development Services	04
13.	¶28	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	05
14.	29	Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana	05
15.	30	Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana	05
16.	¶31	Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission	05
17.	32	Plan scheme for evaluation, monitoring, management and strengthening of the targeted PDS	06
18.	35	Post-matric scholarship programme for students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes.	06
19.	36	Expanding reach of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation	06
20.	37	Multi-sector development programme for minority districts	06
21.	40	New industrial policy for NER	07
22.	41	New initiatives in critical areas	07
23.	44	Draft National Policy for Farmers	07
24.	45	Farm Credit	07
25.	46	Interest subvention scheme	08
26.	47	Special plan for distressed districts in 4 states	08
27.	48	Committee on agricultural indebtedness	09
28.	49	Expansion of the Integrated Oilseeds, Oil palm, Pulses and Maize Development programme	09
29.	50	Special Purpose Funds for coffee, rubber, spices, cashew and coconut	09
30.	51	Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	10
31.	52	Rainfed Area Development Programme	10
32.	53	Pilot projects to repair, renovate and restore water bodies	10
33.	54	Ground water recharge	11
34.	55	Setting up teaching-cum-demonstration model of water harvesting	11
35.	56	Revival of Extension System	11
36.	57	Agriculture Technology Management Agency	12
37.	58	Alternative method of delivering the fertilizer subsidy directly to the farmer	12
38.	59	National Agricultural Insurance Scheme	12
39.	60	Weather based crop insurance scheme	12
40.	61	Allowing NABARD to issue rural bonds	13
41.	62	Rural Infrastructure Development Fund	13
42.	63	Separate window for rural roads under RIDF	13
43.	64	Aam Admi Bima Yojana	14
44.	67	Equity support and loans to CPSEs.	14

S. No.	Para No. (in the Budget Speech of 2007-08)	Subject	Page
45.	70	Ultra Mega Power Projects	14
46.	71	Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Project (APDRP)	15
47.	72	Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)	15
48.	73	Enlarging definition of specified end use of coal	16
49.	74	NHDP	16
50.	75	National Road/Rail Projects	17
51.	76	Revolving fund for creation and maintenance of infrastructure	17
52.	78	Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks	17
53.	79	Technology Upgradation Fund	18
54.	80	Enhanced Allocation for handloom sector	18
55.	81	Banks to regard the credit rating of an SME while fixing the interest rate	19
56.	82	Scheme for the technology upgradation of the coir industry	19
57.	85	Initiatives in banking and insurance.	19
58.	86	Acquiring of RBI's equity holding in State Bank of India by Government	20
59.	87	Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) scheme	20
60.	88	Regional Rural Banks	20
61.	89	Reverse mortgage Scheme	20
62.	90	Creation of mortgage guarantee companies	21
63.	91	Health insurance schemes for senior citizens	21
64.	92	Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation) Bill	21
65.	93	Setting up Financial Inclusion Fund and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund under NABARD	21
66.	94	Measures to strengthen capital markets	22
67.	95	Permitting India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) to borrow funds from NSSF	23
68.	97	Recommendations of Deepak Parekh Committee	23
69.	99	Programme for e-governance	23
70.	100	Backward Regions Grant Fund	24
71.	101	Mumbai as an International Financial Centre	24
72.	102	Task Force on Skill Development	24
73.	103	Upgradation of 500 ITIs	25
74.	104	Upgradation of 1,396 ITIs into centres of excellence	25
75.	105	Employment scheme for physically challenged persons	26
76.	106	Debt Management Office	26
77.	107	India International Development Cooperation Agency	26
78.	108	Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change	27
79.	109	Commonwealth Games	27
80.	110	Funds for institutions that continue the work of Gandhiji	27
81.	111	Engaging scholars from Indian and foreign institutions to work on specific projects	28
82.	112	Grant to Agricultural Universities	28
83.	116	Roadmap for introducing a national level Goods and Services Tax (GST)	28
84.	159	Committee to study the present structure of levies and make recommendations	28
85.	183	Tax Administration	29

\* Bharat Nirman  
 Flagship Programme

S.No.	Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
1.	9	<p><b>* Progress under Bharat Nirman</b>                      Bharat Nirman remains the cornerstone of the Government's policy. I am glad to report that in the current financial year:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional irrigation potential of 2,400,000 hectares, including 900,000 hectares under AIBP, will be created;</li> <li>• Drinking water has been provided to 55,512 habitations until December 2006 against a target of 73,120 habitations;</li> <li>• Until December 2006, 12,198 kilometres of rural roads have been completed. The separate window under RIDF will augment funds for the programme by Rs.4,000 crore a year;·</li> <li>• 783,000 rural houses have been constructed up to December 2006 and 914,000 houses are under construction, and the annual target of 1,500,000 houses is likely to be exceeded;</li> <li>• 19,758 villages have been covered so far under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana;</li> <li>• 15,054 villages have been provided with a telephone against the target of 20,000 villages, and the balance will be covered by the end of the year;</li> </ul> <p>Honourable Members will note that Bharat Nirman continues to make impressive progress.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments:                      D/o Drinking Water Supply                      M/o Power                      M/o Rural Development                      D/o Telecommunications                      M/o Water Resources                      Planning Commission]</p>	<p>Progress under the six components of Bharat Nirman in 2006-07 is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional irrigation potential of 1,940,000 hectares has been created under Bharat Nirman during 2006-07.</li> <li>• Drinking water was provided to 107,350 habitations against a target of 73,120 habitations in 2006-07.</li> <li>• 21,423 kilometers rural roads were completed during 2006-07 and 46,130 Kilometers of rural roads were upgraded</li> <li>• 1,498,367 rural houses were constructed during 2006-07.</li> <li>• 38,525 villages were electrified till March 31, 2007.</li> <li>• 46,969 villages were provided with a telephones till March 31, 2007.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
2.	12	<p><b>Gross Budgetary Support</b>                      Notwithstanding some constraints, I propose to increase substantially the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the Plan. In 2006-07, the GBS was fixed at Rs.172,728 crore and, of this, support to the Central Plan was Rs.131,284 crore. GBS for 2007-08 will be increased to Rs.205,100 crore. Out of this, the Central Plan will receive Rs.154,939 crore.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department:                      Planning Commission]</p>	<p>Ministry/Department-wise GBS allocations have already been given in the Union Budget 2007-08. While allocating the scheme/project-wise funds, the objectives and priorities under the Government's Flagship Programmes including the Bharat Nirman components have been kept in view and the allocations have been finalized in consultations with respective Ministries/Departments.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
3.	<p><b>13 * Allocation for Bharat Nirman</b></p> <p>For Bharat Nirman, as against Rs.18,696 crore (including the NER component) in 2006-07, I propose to provide Rs.24,603 crore in 2007-08, which marks an increase of 31.6 per cent.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments: M/o Power M/o Rural Development D/o Drinking Water Supply M/o Water Resources Planning Commission]</p>	<p>Funds have been allocated for Bharat Nirman for 2007-08. Revised estimates for 2007-08 are Rs. 26,465 crore.</p> <p><b>Action completed</b></p>
4.	<p><b>16 Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan</b></p> <p>Out of this amount, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) will be provided Rs.10,671 crore. Further, I propose to increase the provision for strengthening teachers training institutions from Rs.162 crore to Rs.450 crore. Next year, we will appoint 200,000 more teachers and construct 500,000 more class rooms.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o School Education &amp; Literacy]</p>	<p>Revised estimates for 2007-08 for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are Rs.13,171 crore. Rs.9,613 crore has been released till January 31, 2008. 67,864 teachers have been recruited during the current financial year, till December 2007. 208,000 additional classrooms have been constructed and 310,000 are under advanced stage of construction.</p> <p>Revised estimates for 2007-08 for strengthening teachers training institutions are Rs.312 crore.</p> <p>A comprehensive evaluation of the existing Teachers Training Institutions from the district level upwards is being done to revamp them effectively to provide technical support to the school education programme.</p> <p><b>Work under progress</b></p>
5.	<p><b>17 Expansion of coverage under Mid-day Meal Scheme</b></p> <p>The Mid-day Meal Scheme will be provided Rs.7,324 crore next year. In addition to covering children in primary classes, beginning 2007-08, we propose to cover children in upper primary classes in 3,427 educationally backward blocks.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o School Education &amp; Literacy]</p>	<p>The Revised Estimates for 2007-08 for Mid-day Meal Scheme are Rs.6,667 crore. Expenditure incurred upto January 31, 2008 is Rs.4,873 crore.</p> <p>The extension of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme to the Upper Primary Stage of Education (Classes VI to VIII) in 3,479 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) during 2007-08 became effective from October 1, 2007. The programme would cover about 1.7 crore additional children studying in the Upper Primary Stage in EBBs. Central assistance of Rs. 423 crore towards cooking cost for the period October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008 has been released.</p> <p><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
6.	<p><b>19 Increasing access to secondary education</b></p> <p>As more students complete upper primary classes, it is necessary to increase access to secondary education. Schemes for this purpose are under formulation, and I propose to double the provision for secondary education from Rs.1,837 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.3,794 crore in 2007-08.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o School Education &amp; Literacy]</p>	<p>The Revised Estimates for 2007-08 for secondary education are Rs.1,635 crore. The Scheme is being revamped to ensure effective access to secondary education of children who will complete upper primary.</p> <p><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
7. 20	<p><b>National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme</b></p> <p>While the SSA has improved the enrolment ratio in schools to 96 per cent, the drop out ratio continues to be high. The critical year appears to be transition from class VIII to class IX. In order to arrest the drop out ratio and encourage students to continue their education beyond class VIII, I propose to introduce a National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme. Selection will be made through a national test from among students who have passed class VIII. Each student will be given Rs.6,000 per year for study in classes IX, X, XI and XII. I propose that 100,000 scholarships may be awarded every year. In order to fund this programme, I intend to create a corpus fund of Rs.750 crore this year, and add a like amount to the fund every year over the next three years. Accordingly, a sum of Rs.750 crore will be placed with the State Bank of India, and the yield from the fund will be used for awarding the scholarships.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o School Education &amp; Literacy]</p>	<p>The scheme is being finalized for implementation.</p> <p><b>Work under progress</b></p>
8. 21	<p><b>Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission</b></p> <p>55,512 habitations and 34,000 schools have been provided drinking water supply till December, 2006 under the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. More ambitious targets have been set for 2007-08 to deal with both non-coverage and slippage. I propose to enhance the allocation for the Mission from Rs.4,680 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.5,850 crore in 2007-08.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Drinking Water Supply]</p>	<p>81,055 habitations and 10,398 schools have been provided drinking water supply till November, 2007. The Revised Estimate for 2007-08 is Rs.6,400 crore for this Scheme. Against this, Rs.4,523 crore has been released to the States till December 31, 2007.</p> <p><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
9. 23	<p><b>National Rural Health Mission</b></p> <p>In the second year of its implementation, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is on schedule to meet its timelines. The institutional integration of all the health schemes at the district and lower levels has been achieved. All districts in the country will complete preparation of District Health Action Plans by March 2007. The major emphasis will be on mother and child care and on the prevention and treatment of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria. Through Monthly Health Days (MHD) organised at Anganwadi centres, convergence is sought to be achieved among various programmes such as immunization, ante natal care as well as nutrition and sanitation.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Health]</p>	<p>The Revised Estimates for the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for 2007-08 are Rs.10,169 crore. Actual expenditure till January 31, 2008 is Rs.7,900 crore.</p> <p>District Health Action Plan is the key strategy for integrated action under NRHM. It reflects the current status and the missing gaps in providing accessible, affordable and accountable health service to every household. The first integrated District Health Action Plans have been prepared in over 509 districts, and the remaining districts are also being covered. Over 15 lakh Village Health and Nutrition Days were held in 2007-08 to provide immunisation and other public health services at Aanganwadi centres.</p> <p><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>

S.No.	Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation																								
10.	25	<p><b>National Aids Control Programme (NACP)</b> Government has brought HIV/AIDS out of the closet and promised bold and determined efforts to achieve zero-level growth of the disease. The epidemic will be deemed 'stabilised' if the prevalence rate is less than one per cent of the population. National Aids Control Programme (NACP)-III, starting in 2007-08 and building on NACP-I and NACP-II, will target the high risk groups in all the States. We will expand access to condoms and ensure universal access to blood screening and safe blood. More hospitals will provide treatment to prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child. Support will be given to the protocol on paediatric dosage developed by Indian doctors and launched in November 2006. For the year 2007-08, I propose to step up the provision for the AIDS control programme to Rs.969 crore.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Health]</p>	<p>The Revised Estimates for the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) for 2007-08 are Rs. 954 crore. Releases so far are Rs. 748 crore. The strategies during 2007-08 include development of infrastructure, training, and targeted interventions. Some of the quantifiable targets set for 2007-08 and the achievements till December 2007 are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Deliverables</th> <th>Annual Target (physical)</th> <th>Achievement (upto December 2007)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Integrated Counseling &amp; Testing Center</td> <td>1,518</td> <td>1,339</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Training of Staff</td> <td>87,000</td> <td>1,24,738</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Targeted Interventions</td> <td>600</td> <td>792</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Community Care Centres</td> <td>69</td> <td>74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Modernization of District level Blood Banks</td> <td>39</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>	S. No.	Deliverables	Annual Target (physical)	Achievement (upto December 2007)	1.	Integrated Counseling & Testing Center	1,518	1,339	2.	Training of Staff	87,000	1,24,738	3.	Targeted Interventions	600	792	4.	Community Care Centres	69	74	5.	Modernization of District level Blood Banks	39	1
S. No.	Deliverables	Annual Target (physical)	Achievement (upto December 2007)																								
1.	Integrated Counseling & Testing Center	1,518	1,339																								
2.	Training of Staff	87,000	1,24,738																								
3.	Targeted Interventions	600	792																								
4.	Community Care Centres	69	74																								
5.	Modernization of District level Blood Banks	39	1																								
11.	26	<p><b>Eliminating Polio</b> Last year, I had expressed the hope that polio will be eliminated from the country by December 2007. However, there was an outbreak in western Uttar Pradesh in early 2006. The strategy for polio eradication has been revised. The number of polio rounds will be increased, monovalent vaccine will be introduced, and there will be intensive coverage in the 20 high risk districts of Uttar Pradesh and 10 districts of Bihar. The programme has been integrated into the NRHM. The ASHAs and the Anganwadi workers will visit every household and track every child for the immunization programme. To achieve the goal of eliminating polio, I propose to provide Rs.1,290 crore in 2007-08.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Health]</p>	<p>The immunization programme for eliminating polio is a component of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). In 33 out of 35 states/UTs indigenous transmission has ended. In UP and Bihar, the strategy has been modified to achieve the goal of zero transmission with larger number of polio immunization campaigns with monovalent vaccine Type I (mOPVI). As a result of this strategy, there has been a significant decline in the number of cases caused by the most virulent strain of poliovirus type 1 (P1). Only 75 Type 1 polio cases have been reported this year as against 648 cases of Type 1 last year. The endemic region of Western Uttar Pradesh has reported only 5 type 1 polio cases this year. The core districts of Moradabad and J.P. Nagar, the epicenter of the outbreak in 2006, have not had a single case of P1 for the last one year. Over four lakh ASHAs/ community workers are actively working in the field to connect households. 62.4% of the child population has been fully immunized.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>																								
12.	27	<p><b>Integrated Child Development Services</b> In the second phase of expansion of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Government has sanctioned 173 ICDS projects, 107,274 Anganwadi centres and 25,961 mini-Anganwadi centres. Government is committed to expand the scheme in order to cover all habitations and settlements during the Eleventh Plan and to reach out to pregnant women, lactating mothers and all children below the age of six. I propose to increase the allocation for ICDS from Rs.4,087 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.4,761 crore in 2007-08.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Women &amp; Child Development]</p>	<p>During 2006-07, 166 projects were sanctioned and 107,000 Anganwadi centres and 25,943 mini-Anganwadi centres were set up. The Revised Estimates for the ICDS programme for 2007-08 are Rs.5,398 crore.</p> <p>A proposal for the third phase of expansion of ICDS Scheme for 792 additional ICDS Projects, 213,000 Anganwadi centres (AWCs) and 77,053 Mini-AWCs is under process.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>																								

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
13. 28	<p><b>National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme</b></p> <p>The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was launched on February 2, 2006. The pace of implementation varies from State to State. Since NREGS is a demand-driven scheme carrying a legal guarantee of employment, the budget allocation would have to be supplemented according to need. I therefore propose to make an initial allocation of Rs.12,000 crore (including NER component) for NREGS. I am also happy to announce that NREGS will be expanded from the current level of 200 districts to 330 districts. In addition, I have provided Rs.2,800 crore for Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) for rural employment in the districts not covered by NREGS.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Rural Development]</p>	<p>The National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Act has been notified to an additional 130 districts. The Revised Estimates for NREGP for 2007-08 are Rs.12,000 crore. Rs.10,501 crore has been released upto January 31, 2008.</p> <p>The Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has subsumed under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in the districts that have come under the ambit of the NREGS. For the remaining districts, which will continue to be covered under SGRY, an amount of Rs.3,800 crore has been allocated in the Revised Estimates for 2007-08 with a cash component of Rs.1,723 crore and food grain component of Rs.2,077 crore.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
14. 29	<p><b>Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana</b></p> <p>Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is intended to promote self-employment among the rural poor through Self Help Groups (SHG). I propose to strengthen this programme by increasing the allocation from Rs.1,200 crore in the current year to Rs.1,800 crore (including NER component) next year.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Rural Development]</p>	<p>The Revised Estimates for Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for 2007-08 are Rs.1,800 crore. Actual releases till date were Rs.1,382 crore. 7.93 lakh Swarozgaris have been assisted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
15. 30	<p><b>Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana</b></p> <p>The issue of urban unemployment and poverty alleviation is equally critical. Hence, I propose to increase the allocation for Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana from Rs.250 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.344 crore next year.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation]</p>	<p>The Revised Estimates for the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) are Rs.344 crore. Till date, Rs.331 crore has been spent. 86,851 urban poor have been assisted to set up individual/group enterprises against a target of 1.2 lakh.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
16. 31	<p><b>Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission</b></p> <p>The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has evoked a positive response from State Governments. As on date, 538 projects with a total cost of Rs.23,950 crore have been sanctioned in sectors such as water supply, sanitation, transport, road and housing in many cities spread over several States. I propose to enhance the allocation from Rs.4,595 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.4,987 crore 2007-08.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Urban Development]</p>	<p>The allocation under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been enhanced. 254 projects with an approved cost of Rs.21,960 crore have been sanctioned under the UIG component of JNNURM until the end of 2007. Progress is being monitored.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>



S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
17. 32	<p><b>Plan scheme for evaluation, monitoring, management and strengthening of the targeted PDS</b></p> <p>The issue prices of food grains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and for the beneficiaries of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana have been retained. A Plan scheme for evaluation, monitoring, management and strengthening of the targeted PDS will be implemented in 2007-08, and this will include computerization of the PDS and an integrated information system in the Food Corporation of India.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Food &amp; Public Distribution]</p>	<p>The 'Integrated Information System for Foodgrains Management' (IISFM) project has been implemented in the Food Corporation of India. Two Plan schemes have been finalized for strengthening of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Allocations for these two schemes have also been finalized. Concurrent evaluation by NCAER &amp; IIPA is in progress in 20 States and UTs for the scheme of strengthening of TPDS through training and evaluation.</p> <p><b>Work under progress</b></p>
18. 35	<p><b>Post-matric scholarship programme for students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes.</b></p> <p>There is a post-matric scholarship programme for SC and ST students. I propose to increase the provision for these scholarships from Rs.440 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.611 crore in 2007-08. I also propose to make a separate provision of Rs.91 crore for similar scholarships to be awarded to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments: M/o Social Justice &amp; Empowerment]</p>	<p>The post-matric scholarship programme for SC and ST students is an ongoing scheme. The proposal for continuation of the scheme during the Eleventh Plan has been approved with certain modifications. The funds provided under the scheme during the financial year 2007-08 have been fully utilised. A similar scheme for post-matric scholarships to be awarded to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes is also being finalized.</p> <p><b>Work under progress</b></p>
19. 36	<p><b>Expanding reach of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation</b></p> <p>Last year, I made a modest contribution of Rs.16.47 crore to the equity of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC). Following the Sachar Committee report, NMDFC would be required to expand its reach and intensify its efforts. Hence, I propose to provide a further sum of Rs.63 crore to the share capital of NMDFC.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments: M/o Minority Affairs]</p>	<p>Funds are being released to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) in installments. Rs.47 crore has been released so far.</p> <p>A restructuring exercise is being finalized to enable NMFDC to expand its reach and intensify its efforts.</p> <p><b>Work under progress</b></p>
20. 37	<p><b>Multi-sector development programme for minority districts</b></p> <p>There are a number of districts with a concentration of minorities. I propose to make a provision of Rs.108 crore for a multi-sector development programme in these districts.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments: M/o Minority Affairs]</p>	<p>The proposal for identification of minority concentration districts has been approved, and guidelines issued on June 21, 2007. ICSSR is conducting a baseline survey of these districts and funds have been released for this purpose.</p> <p>The proposal for a Multi-sectoral development programme in the identified 90 districts with minority concentration at a cost of Rs. 3,780 crore is being finalized.</p> <p><b>Work under progress</b></p>

S.No.	Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation																																	
21.	40	<p><b>New industrial policy for NER</b></p> <p>The total budget allocation in 2007-08 for the North Eastern Region, culled out from allocations under different ministries/ departments, has increased from Rs.12,041 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.14,365 crore in 2007-08. This includes Rs.1,380 crore provided to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER). The new industrial policy for NER, with suitable fiscal incentives, will be in place before March 31, 2007.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Industrial Policy &amp; Promotion ]</p>	<p>The North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007 has been approved and notified with effect from April 1, 2007.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>																																	
22.	41	<p><b>New initiatives in critical areas</b></p> <p>I have, so far, outlined the allocations under what may be called Plan 'A' which has a resource basket of Rs.205,100 crore. In consultation with the Planning Commission, I have also drawn up Plan 'B'. Since the Eleventh Plan will begin on April 1, 2007, we recognize that there will be a need to take new initiatives in critical areas. Additional resources will be needed once the proposals are finalized and the pace of expenditure builds up. Therefore, I shall endeavour to find additional resources through better tax administration to the extent of Rs.7,000 crore during the course of the year. I have been advised by the Planning Commission that these additional funds, once voted by this House, will be allocated among sectors such as agriculture, rural development, health, women and child development, urban infrastructure, water resources, etc.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o of Economic Affairs Planning Commission]</p>	<p>During the course of the year, additional resources have been provided under Plan through the First and Second batch of Supplementary Demand for Grants, for schemes as given below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Schemes/ Programmes</th> <th>Amount (Rs. crore)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana</td> <td>900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>National Food Security Mission</td> <td>399</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>EAP to States</td> <td>3,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Assistance to DMRC</td> <td>192</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Weather Based Insurance Scheme</td> <td>69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Post-Matric Scholarship</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Commonwealth Games</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>EAP for AIDS control</td> <td>135</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>6,070</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Additional allocation will be provided for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Revival of Plantation Crops Programme and other schemes in the final batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants 2007-08 keeping in mind the committed liabilities and the capacity of the implementing agencies to efficiently utilize the resources during the current financial year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>	S. No.	Schemes/ Programmes	Amount (Rs. crore)	1	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana	900	2	National Food Security Mission	399	3	EAP to States	3,800	4	Assistance to DMRC	192	5	Weather Based Insurance Scheme	69	6	Post-Matric Scholarship	200	7	Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana	300	8	Commonwealth Games	75	9	EAP for AIDS control	135		<b>Total</b>	<b>6,070</b>
S. No.	Schemes/ Programmes	Amount (Rs. crore)																																		
1	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana	900																																		
2	National Food Security Mission	399																																		
3	EAP to States	3,800																																		
4	Assistance to DMRC	192																																		
5	Weather Based Insurance Scheme	69																																		
6	Post-Matric Scholarship	200																																		
7	Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana	300																																		
8	Commonwealth Games	75																																		
9	EAP for AIDS control	135																																		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,070</b>																																		
23.	44	<p><b>Draft National Policy for Farmers</b></p> <p>The draft National Policy for Farmers submitted by the National Commission on Farmers is under consideration. Meanwhile, I have a number of proposals to improve the economic viability of farming and ensure that farmers earn a minimum net income.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Agriculture &amp; Cooperation]</p>	<p>The National Policy for Farmers 2007 based on the revised draft submitted by the National Commission on Farmers has been approved after incorporating major recommendations of the Commission.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed.</b></p>																																	
24.	45	<p><b>Farm Credit</b></p> <p>Farm credit continues to grow at a satisfactory pace. The goal of doubling farm credit in three years was achieved in two years. The target of</p>	<p>Against the target of Rs. 175,000 crore for the year 2006-07, Rs. 203,296 crore was disbursed under farm credit upto March 2007.</p>																																	

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
	<p>Rs.175,000 crore set for 2006-07 will be exceeded comfortably and is likely to reach Rs.190,000 crore. This year, until December 2006, 53.37 lakh new farmers were brought into the institutional credit system. For 2007-08, I propose to fix a target of Rs.225,000 crore as farm credit and an addition of 50 lakh new farmers to the banking system.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]</p>	<p>As against the farm credit target of Rs. 225,000 crore, an amount of Rs. 137,760 crore has been financed upto November 2007. Further, as against a target of an additional 50 lakh new farmers to the banking system during the current year, 42.97 lakh new farmers have been financed upto November 2007.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
25. 46	<p><b>Interest subvention scheme</b></p> <p>The two per cent interest subvention scheme for short-term crop loans will continue in 2007-08, and I am making a provision of Rs.1,677 crore for that purpose.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]</p>	<p>Government has released Rs. 1,100 crore for interest subvention for Kharif and Rabi 2006-07 to RBI in March 2007 for the year 2006-07.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
26. 47	<p><b>Special plan for distressed districts in 4 states</b></p> <p>A special plan is being implemented over a period of three years in 31 especially distressed districts in four States of the country involving a total amount of Rs.16,979 crore. Of this, about Rs.12,400 crore will be on water related schemes. In order to provide subsidiary income to the farmer, the special plan includes a scheme for induction of high yielding milch animals and related activities. I propose to provide Rs.153 crore for this scheme.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments: D/o Financial Services D/o Animal Husbandry Dairying &amp; Fisheries M/o Water Resources]</p>	<p>A Special plan for distressed districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra includes the following components:</p> <p><b>i. Special livestock and fisheries package</b></p> <p>A special livestock and fisheries package for 31 suicide prone districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra is being implemented. This package is to be implemented over a period of three years i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09. Out of an allocation of Rs.153 crore for these four states, an amount of Rs.77 crore have been released to these states till December 31, 2007.</p> <p><b>ii. Credit</b></p> <p>As regards 31 debt stressed districts the following package relating to agriculture credit is being implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The entire interest on overdue loans as on July1, 2006 will be waived in the affected districts such that all farmers will have no past interest burden as on that date. This should make them eligible for fresh loan from the banking system</li> <li>• The overdue loans of the farmers as on July 1, 2006 will be rescheduled over a period of 3-5 years with one year moratorium.</li> <li>• An additional credit flow will be ensured in these 31 districts.</li> </ul> <p>The total overdue interest waived amounts to Rs.3,728 crore, i.e Rs 1,978 crore in Andhra Pradesh, Rs.706 crore in Karnataka, Rs.219 crore in Kerala and Rs 825 crore in Maharastra. Government has released Rs. 1,359 crore being the 50% share of the estimated amount of interest</p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
		waiver of Rs. 2,719 crore. The remaining amount of Rs. 505 crore will be released shortly.
		<p><b>iii. Water related activities</b>  A grant of Rs.885 crore was released under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), for projects under the Prime Minister's package for Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala during 2006-07. During 2007-08, an amount of Rs.255 crore grant was released to the four States under AIBP projects in October 2007.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
27.	<p><b>48 Committee on agricultural indebtedness</b>  Government had appointed a Committee under Dr. R. Radhakrishna to examine all aspects of agricultural indebtedness. The Committee has held wide ranging consultations across the country and is in the process of finalizing its recommendations. Government will act on the report as soon as it is received.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department:  D/o Financial Services]</p>	<p>The Report of the Committee on agricultural indebtedness has been examined and an action plan is under formulation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Work under progress</b></p>
28.	<p><b>49 Expansion of the Integrated Oilseeds, Oil palm, Pulses and Maize Development programme</b>  Government is concerned about the stagnation in the production and productivity of pulses. A critical deficiency is the availability and quality of certified seeds. I therefore propose to expand the Integrated Oilseeds, Oil palm, Pulses and Maize Development programme. There will be a sharper focus on scaling up the production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds. The Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur, the National and State level seeds corporations, agricultural universities, ICAR centres, KRIBHCO, IFFCO and NAFED as well as large private sector companies will be invited to submit plans to scale up the production of seeds. Government will fund the expansion of IIPR, Kanpur, and offer the other producers a capital grant or concessional financing in order to double the production of certified seeds within a period of three years.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Departments:  D/o Agricultural Research and Education  D/o Agriculture &amp; Cooperation]</p>	<p>The implementation of National Food Security Mission Pulses (NFSM-P) in major growing states/districts has been approved. In order to achieve an additional 20 lakh tonnes of pulses production, an area of expansion of 2,470,000 hectare through inter-cropping and another 2 million hectare by utilizing rice fallows in major rice growing states (in Rabi) has been targeted during Eleventh Five Year Plan under the NFSM-Pulses. The NFSM-Pulses is proposed to be implemented in 168 identified districts in 14 major pulses growing States from Rabi 2008-09.</p> <p>Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur has proposed to double the production of breeder seed of pulses from 9,220 quintals in 2007-08 to 18,660 quintals by 2011-12. ICAR will continue to provide support and create facilities for production of nucleus and breeder seed at its institutions and State Agricultural Universities. 9,320.17 quintals of breeder seed of improved varieties of pulses has been produced during the year 2006-07. The indent of Kharif and Rabi pulses crop seed to be produced during Kharif and Rabi 2007 was sent to the crop coordinators to organize breeder seed production programme.</p> <p>A proposal for expansion of IIPR, Kanpur has been prepared and will be finalized.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
29.	<p><b>50 Special Purpose Funds for coffee, rubber, spices, cashew and coconut</b>  A Special Purpose Tea Fund has been launched for re-plantation and rejuvenation of tea. Government will soon put in place similar</p>	<p>Special Purpose Funds for Coffee for Rs. 310 crore, Rubber for Rs. 240 crore and Cardamom for Rs. 122 crore have been launched.</p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
	<p>financial mechanisms for coffee, rubber, spices, cashew and coconut. [Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Commerce D/o Agriculture &amp; Cooperation]</p>	<p>Rejuvenation programmes for Cashew, Pepper and Coconut are also being taken up under the National Horticulture Mission and the Coconut Development Board respectively. <b>Work under progress</b></p>
30. 51	<p><b>Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme</b> The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) has been revamped in order to complete more irrigation projects in the quickest possible time. 35 projects are likely to be completed in 2006-07 and additional irrigation potential of 900,000 hectares will be created. As against an outlay of Rs.7,121 crore in 2006-07, the outlay for 2007-08 will be increased to Rs.11,000 crore. Of this, the grant component to State Governments will be Rs.3,580 crore, an increase from Rs.2,350 crore.  [Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Water Resources]</p>	<p>Irrigation potential of 940,000 hectares was created through AIBP assisted projects during 2006-07 against a target of 900,000 hectares. During 2006-07, a total of 29 major and medium irrigation projects and 512 minor irrigation schemes were completed with assistance under AIBP. <b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
31. 52	<p><b>Rainfed Area Development Programme</b> The National Rainfed Area Authority was established a few months ago to coordinate all schemes relating to watershed development and other aspects of land use. I propose to allocate Rs.100 crore for the new Rainfed Area Development Programme.  [Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Agriculture &amp; Cooperation]</p>	<p>The guidelines for the new Rainfed Area Development Programme are being finalized. The CEO as well as technical experts for the National Rainfed Area Authority have been appointed. <b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
32. 53	<p><b>Pilot projects to repair, renovate and restore water bodies</b> Honourable Members will recall that, in March 2005, a pilot project to repair, renovate and restore water bodies was launched in 13 States. I am happy to inform the House that the World Bank has signed a loan agreement with Tamil Nadu for Rs.2,182 crore to restore 5,763 water bodies having a command area of 400,000 hectares. An agreement for Andhra Pradesh is expected to be concluded in March 2007 and will cover 3,000 water bodies with a command area of 250,000 hectares. Preparation of similar projects for Karnataka, Orissa and West Bengal are at different stages and at least two more agreements are likely to be concluded before June 2007. I would urge other State Governments to come forward with proposals so that the whole country can be covered within the next two years.  [Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Water Resources]</p>	<p>An agreement for Rs.835 crore has been signed with World Bank in June, 2007 for restoration of 3,000 water bodies with a Cultivable Command Area (CCA) of 2.5 lakh hectares in Andhra Pradesh. A similar project for Karnataka has been signed for Rs.259 crore for restoration of 1,225 water bodies on November 2, 2007. The appraisal process for the Orissa project has been completed by the World Bank and the appraisal of the West Bengal Project is underway. Other States are being encouraged to prepare similar projects for Tank Management and restoration of Water Bodies. <b>Ongoing programme</b></p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
33. 54	<p><b>Ground water recharge</b></p> <p>Depletion of ground water has assumed grave proportions. The Central Ground Water Board has identified 1,065 assessment blocks in the country as 'over-exploited' or 'critical'. Over 80 per cent of these blocks are in 100 districts in seven States. The strategy for ground water recharge is to divert rain water into 'dug wells'. Each structure will cost about Rs.4,000. The requirement is seven million structures, including about two million structures on land belonging to small and marginal farmers. I propose to provide 100 per cent subsidy to small and marginal farmers and 50 per cent subsidy to other farmers. Ministry of Water Resources will finalise the scheme shortly. In anticipation, I intend to transfer a sum of Rs.1,800 crore to NABARD. The amount will be held in escrow and will be disbursed through the lead bank of the district concerned to the beneficiaries.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Water Resources]</p>	<p>The scheme based on a cluster approach in 1,180 over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks falling mainly in hard rock areas in the state of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh has been approved in January 2008.</p> <p><b>Action completed</b></p>
34. 55	<p><b>Setting up teaching-cum-demonstration model of water harvesting</b></p> <p>With minimum instruction and training, our farmers will easily absorb good water management practices. I therefore propose that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) may set up one teaching-cum-demonstration model of water harvesting in each of 32 selected State Agricultural Universities and ICAR institutes. Each institution will train 100 trainers and 1,000 farmers every year in two-week and one-week programmes respectively. Based on estimates of recurring costs, I intend to provide an interest free loan of Rs.3 crore to each institution to create a corpus fund. The yield from the fund will be used for implementing the training programme. The total cost is estimated at Rs.100 crore.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Agricultural Research and Education]</p>	<p>The proposal for implementation of "Scaling up of Water Productivity in Agriculture for livelihoods through Teaching-cum-Demonstration, Training of Trainers and Farmers" has been approved.</p> <p><b>Action completed</b></p>
35. 56	<p><b>Revival of Extension System</b></p> <p>The green revolution of the 1960s was brought about by thousands of agricultural extension workers who worked side by side with our farmers under a programme called Training and Visit (T&amp;V). Sadly, the extension system seems to have collapsed. In order to revive extension work, the Ministry of Agriculture will, in consultation with State Governments, draw up a new programme that will replicate T&amp;V with suitable changes.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Agriculture &amp; Cooperation]</p>	<p>New programmatic interventions have been included in the revived extension system based on consultations with the States and other stakeholders. Several existing interventions have been strengthened, the implementation mechanism has been improved and increased administrative support provided.</p> <p><b>Action completed</b></p>

S.No.	Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation										
36.	57	<p><b>Agriculture Technology Management Agency</b> The Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) that is now in place in 262 districts will be extended to another 300 districts in 2007-08. I propose to enhance the provision for ATMA from Rs.50 crore to Rs.230 crore next year.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Agriculture &amp; Cooperation]</p>	<p>The State Extension Work Plan 2007-08 of 27 States/UTs have been approved for 2007-08. Approval has been given for extending ATMA scheme to 305 additional districts so far covering 25 States. Out of 305 additional districts, ATMAs have been constituted in 282 districts as on December 31, 2007.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>										
37.	58	<p><b>Alternative method of delivering the fertilizer subsidy directly to the farmer</b> I had budgeted Rs.17,253 crore for fertiliser subsidies in 2006-07. According to Revised Estimates, this will rise to Rs.22,452 crore, and there is a demand for more money. While fertilisers should indeed be subsidised, we must find an alternative method of delivering the subsidy directly to the farmer. The fertiliser industry has agreed to work with the Department of Fertilisers to conduct a study and find a solution. Based on the report, Government intends to implement a pilot programme in at least one district in each State in 2007-08.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments: D/o Fertilisers]</p>	<p>The modalities for providing an alternative method of delivering the fertilizer subsidy directly to the farmer are being worked out. The proposal was examined by a Group of Ministers (GOM) and the Report is being finalized.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Work under progress</b></p>										
38.	59	<p><b>National Agricultural Insurance Scheme</b> The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) will be continued in its present form for Kharif and Rabi 2007-08. I propose to make a provision of Rs.500 crore for the scheme.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Agriculture &amp; Cooperation]</p>	<p>Administrative Instructions have been issued to all the States/Union Territories for implementation of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) during Kharif 2007 season.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>										
39.	60	<p><b>Weather based crop insurance scheme</b> Agricultural Insurance Corporation (AIC) has been running a pilot weather insurance scheme since Kharif 2004 and it appears to be a more promising risk mitigation scheme. Hence, Government will ask AIC to start a weather based crop insurance scheme on a pilot basis in two or three States, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, as an alternative to the NAIS. The scheme will be operated on an actuarial basis with an element of subsidy. I intend to allocate Rs.100 crore for this purpose in 2007-08.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Agriculture &amp; Cooperation D/o Financial Services]</p>	<p>The Agriculture Insurance Corporation introduced a Pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) in Karnataka during Kharif 2007 season, covering 70 Hoblis (the State has 770 Hoblis in all) and eight rain-fed crops. The coverage was as under:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">State</th> <th style="text-align: center;">No. of farmers</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Area (Hectares)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Sum insured (Rs. Lakhs)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Premium (Rs. Lakhs)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Karnataka</td> <td style="text-align: center;">44,480</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50,077</td> <td style="text-align: center;">53,011</td> <td style="text-align: center;">703</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The WBCIS has been launched in a bigger way in the ongoing Rabi season. The States that have issued the Notification for the implementation of this Pilot during Rabi 2007-08 season are Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh</p>	State	No. of farmers	Area (Hectares)	Sum insured (Rs. Lakhs)	Premium (Rs. Lakhs)	Karnataka	44,480	50,077	53,011	703
State	No. of farmers	Area (Hectares)	Sum insured (Rs. Lakhs)	Premium (Rs. Lakhs)									
Karnataka	44,480	50,077	53,011	703									

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation																														
		and Chhattisgarh. The status of coverage as on date is as under:																														
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>State</th> <th>No. of farmers</th> <th>Area (Hectares)</th> <th>Sum insured (Rs. Lakhs)</th> <th>Premium (Rs. Lakhs)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rajasthan</td> <td>531,626</td> <td>830,011</td> <td>144,216</td> <td>11,606</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bihar</td> <td>7,108</td> <td>8,126</td> <td>1,441</td> <td>88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chhattisgarh</td> <td>966</td> <td>2,395</td> <td>369</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M.P.</td> <td>9,235</td> <td>12,767</td> <td>3,474</td> <td>329</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>548,935</b></td> <td><b>853,299</b></td> <td><b>149,500</b></td> <td><b>12,053</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	State	No. of farmers	Area (Hectares)	Sum insured (Rs. Lakhs)	Premium (Rs. Lakhs)	Rajasthan	531,626	830,011	144,216	11,606	Bihar	7,108	8,126	1,441	88	Chhattisgarh	966	2,395	369	30	M.P.	9,235	12,767	3,474	329	<b>Total</b>	<b>548,935</b>	<b>853,299</b>	<b>149,500</b>	<b>12,053</b>
State	No. of farmers	Area (Hectares)	Sum insured (Rs. Lakhs)	Premium (Rs. Lakhs)																												
Rajasthan	531,626	830,011	144,216	11,606																												
Bihar	7,108	8,126	1,441	88																												
Chhattisgarh	966	2,395	369	30																												
M.P.	9,235	12,767	3,474	329																												
<b>Total</b>	<b>548,935</b>	<b>853,299</b>	<b>149,500</b>	<b>12,053</b>																												

**Ongoing programme**

40. 61 **Allowing NABARD to issue rural bonds**  
 NABARD provides refinance to cooperative institutions. As the volume of farm credit increases and the Vaidyanathan Committee recommendations for reform of rural credit cooperatives are implemented, the demand for refinance will increase. In order to augment its resources, I propose to allow NABARD to issue rural bonds to the extent of Rs.5,000 crore. These bonds will be guaranteed by the Government and will be eligible for suitable tax exemption.
- [Nodal Ministry/Department:  
D/o Financial Services]
- Rural Bonds to be issued by NABARD have been included under section 80C of the Income Tax Act. Department of Revenue has notified the bonds for an amount of Rs. 5,000 crore. NABARD has offered these bonds to the public on January 26, 2008.
- Action completed**
41. 62 **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund**  
 The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) continues to sanction and disburse funds to State Governments. In 2006-07, out of a corpus of Rs.10,000 crore, NABARD has so far issued sanctions for Rs.8,440 crore and will achieve its target. Keeping in view the growing demand for these funds, I propose to raise the corpus of RIDF-XIII in 2007-08 to Rs.12,000 crore. I would urge State Governments to use these funds primarily in the distressed districts of the State.
- [Nodal Ministry/Department:  
D/o Financial Services]
- The state-wise allocation of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) XIII of Rs. 12,000 crore has been made by NABARD.
- Action completed**
42. 63 **Separate window for rural roads under RIDF**  
 A separate window for rural roads under RIDF was opened with Rs.4,000 crore. Against this, projects for Rs.2,311 crore have been sanctioned in 2006-07. I propose to continue the separate window under RIDF-XIII in 2007-08 with a corpus of Rs.4,000 crore.
- [Nodal Ministries/Departments:  
D/o Rural Development  
D/o Financial Services]
- NABARD has communicated to the banks the funds to be contributed by them for the separate window of Rs.4,000 crore for Rural Roads. An amount of Rs. 2,707 crore has been disbursed till date.
- Action completed**



S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
43. 64	<p><b>Aam Admi Bima Yojana</b></p> <p>One of the commitments made in the NCMP is that Government will introduce a social security scheme for unorganized workers. A committee chaired by Dr. Arjun Sengupta has given its report which is under consideration. Pending a decision, in order to signal the UPA Government's concern for the welfare of unorganized workers, I propose to make a beginning. I propose to extend death and disability insurance cover through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to rural landless households under a new scheme called 'Aam Admi Bima Yojana' (AABY). According to NSS Report No. 491, the estimate of such households is about 1.5 crore. By end March 2007, 70 lakh households will be covered through existing schemes of the LIC with the support of some State Governments and the social security fund with the LIC. Under AABY, I propose to cover the rural landless households which enjoy no cover at all today, and the number may be actually more than what is indicated in the NSS report. The head of the family or one earning member in the family will be insured. The Central Government will bear 50 per cent of the premium of Rs.200 per year per person and I would urge the State Governments to come forward to bear the other 50 per cent on behalf of the beneficiaries. Taking into account the annual cost to the Central Government, I intend to place a sum of Rs.1,000 crore in a fund that will be maintained by LIC. I propose to finalise the scheme in consultation with State Governments and begin to implement it in 2007-08.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments: D/o Financial Services]</p>	<p>Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) was launched on October 2, 2007. The scheme would be operationalised with effect from April 1, 2008.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
44. 67	<p><b>Equity support and loans to CPSEs.</b></p> <p>Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) will, through internal and extra budgetary resources, invest Rs.165,053 crore in 2007-08. Government will provide equity support of Rs.16,361 crore and loans of Rs.2,970 crore to CPSEs.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments: Planning Commission]</p>	<p>The revised estimates for Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (I&amp;EBR) of CPSEs has been completed and exceeds the BE of Rs. 165,053 crore.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
45. 70	<p><b>Ultra Mega Power Projects</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Power has awarded two Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) in Sasan and Mundra. Seven more UMPPs are under process and we are confident that at least two more will be awarded by July, 2007. Other initiatives taken by the Ministry of Power include</p>	<p>Two Ultra Mega Power Projects - Mundra in Gujarat and Sasan in Madhya Pradesh are under implementation. In respect of the proposed Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) in Krishnapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), a Letter of Intent (LOI) has been issued to the successful bidder. Bidding is in process in respect of the project in Tilliaya (Jharkhand).</p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
	<p>facilitating setting up of merchant power plants by private developers and private participation in transmission projects.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Power]</p>	<p>Five other suitable sites have been identified by the Central Electricity Authority at Akaltara (Chattisgarh), Girye (Maharashtra), Tadri (Karnataka), Cheyyur (Tamil Nadu) and Ib Valley (Orissa).</p> <p>Modifications to the Mega Power Policy for incentivizing development of Merchant Power Plant are under consideration.</p> <p>The initiatives taken for facilitating Merchant Power Plants include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open access in transmission introduced in the Electricity Act, 2003.</li> <li>• Open access in distribution is to be introduced in phases by the SERCs.</li> <li>• Open access for consumers with requirement of more than one Mega Watt is to become mandatory with effect from January 2009.</li> </ul>
		<p>For encouraging private participation in transmission projects Government of India issued guidelines for (i) Encouraging Competition in Development of Transmission Projects and (ii) Tariff Based Competitive Bidding Guidelines for Transmission Services. In accordance with the guidelines, Ministry of Power has constituted an Empowered Committee. The Empowered Committee has identified 14 transmission projects for development through competitive bidding. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) will prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to conduct competitive bidding and select developers under the supervision of the Empowered Committee. REC and PFC have invited Expression of Interest for four projects.</p>
		<b>Ongoing programme</b>
46. 71	<p><b>Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Project (APDRP)</b></p> <p>Besides, the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Project (APDRP) has reduced significantly Aggregate Technical and Commercial (ATC) losses in 213 towns. APDRP is being restructured to cover all district headquarters and towns with a population of more than 50,000. I propose to increase the budgetary support for APDRP from Rs.650 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.800 crore next year.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Power]</p>	<p>The proposal for restructuring of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Project (APDRP) is being finalized.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Work under progress</b></p>
47. 72	<p><b>Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)</b></p> <p>Having regard to the pace of implementation under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana and the annual target, I propose to increase the allocation from Rs.3,000 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.3,983 crore in 2007-08.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Power]</p>	<p>The Revised Estimates for the scheme for 2007-08 are Rs. 3,945 crore. 44,216 villages have been electrified under RGGVY till date. 24,394 electrified villages have also been covered for intensive electrification. 1,741,886 Below Poverty Line households have been given electric connections free of charge till date.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>

S.No.	Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation																																			
48.	73	<p><b>Enlarging definition of specified end use of coal</b></p> <p>Following the announcement last year, 26 coal blocks with reserves of 8,581 million tonnes and four lignite blocks with reserves of 755 million tonnes have been allotted, up to December 2006, to Government companies and approved end users. The definition of specified end use will be enlarged to include underground coal gasification and coal liquefaction.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Coal]</p>	<p>34 coal blocks with reserves of 9,058 million tonnes and ten lignite blocks with reserves of 897 million tonnes have been allotted during 2006-07.</p> <p>To enlarge the definition of end users, a notification specifying underground coal gasification and coal liquefaction also as end users was issued on July 12, 2007.</p> <p><b>Action completed</b></p>																																			
49.	74	<p><b>NHDP</b></p> <p>Work on the golden quadrilateral is nearly complete and there is considerable progress in the North-South, East-West corridor project which is expected to be completed by 2009. NHDP-III, NHDP-V and NHDP-VI are in advanced stages of planning or implementation. So far, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has given Rs.2,072 crore as viability gap funding but has also received Rs.1,900 crore as negative grant. The private sector investment leveraged under NHDP is Rs.25,366 crore. Under the programme for the North Eastern Region (SARDP-NE), 450 kilometres have been awarded in 2006-07 and the balance will be awarded in 2007-08. I propose to increase the provision for the National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) from Rs.9,945 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.10,667 crore next year.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Road Transport]</p>	<p>Under National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) Rs.29,722 crore as of December, 2007 has been leveraged as private sector investment. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has given Rs.3,295 crore as Viability Gap Funding and also received Rs.1,920 crore as negative grant upto November, 2007.</p> <p>Revised estimates for NHDP for 2007-08 are Rs.8,761 crore and for SARDP-NE Rs.710 crore.</p> <p><b>Progress under various components of NHDP</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>NHDP Component</th> <th>Completed length (km)</th> <th>Length under implementation (km.)</th> <th>Balance length for award of civil work</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Golden Quadrilateral</td> <td>5,634</td> <td>212</td> <td>Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>NS-EW Corridor</td> <td>1,635</td> <td>4,686</td> <td>821</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Port connectivity</td> <td>166</td> <td>208</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Other NH</td> <td>337</td> <td>605</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>NHDP III</td> <td>295</td> <td>1,780</td> <td>10,034</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.</td> <td>NHDP V</td> <td>Nil</td> <td>148</td> <td>6,352</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East (SARDP-NE)</b></p> <p>The programme under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East (SARDP-NE) has been divided into two phases. Phase 'A' covers 2,304 km length, out of which NHAI has been mandated for 2/4-laning of 588 km length of National Highways on Build operate transfer (BOT) (Annuity) basis. During 2007-08, allocation of Rs.700 crore has been made for SARDP-NE works, out of which about Rs.209 crore has been utilized till December 31, 2007. Under Phase 'B', preparation of DPR for 6,433 km roads has been approved.</p> <p><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>	S. No.	NHDP Component	Completed length (km)	Length under implementation (km.)	Balance length for award of civil work	1.	Golden Quadrilateral	5,634	212	Nil	2.	NS-EW Corridor	1,635	4,686	821	3.	Port connectivity	166	208	6	4.	Other NH	337	605	20	5.	NHDP III	295	1,780	10,034	6.	NHDP V	Nil	148	6,352
S. No.	NHDP Component	Completed length (km)	Length under implementation (km.)	Balance length for award of civil work																																		
1.	Golden Quadrilateral	5,634	212	Nil																																		
2.	NS-EW Corridor	1,635	4,686	821																																		
3.	Port connectivity	166	208	6																																		
4.	Other NH	337	605	20																																		
5.	NHDP III	295	1,780	10,034																																		
6.	NHDP V	Nil	148	6,352																																		

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
50. 75	<p><b>National Road/Rail Projects</b></p> <p>The road-cum-rail bridge at Munger, Bihar, over the Ganga, has been taken up as a national project. Likewise, the road-cum-rail bridge at Bogibeel, Assam, over the Brahmaputra, will be taken up as a national project.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments: D/o Road Transport &amp; Highways M/o Railways]</p>	<p><b>Road cum rail bridge at Bogibeel, Assam, over the Brahmaputra</b></p> <p>The proposal for Road cum rail bridge at Bogibeel, Assam, over the Brahmaputra had been approved as a National Project. It will be funded by Railways within their own Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) to the extent of 25% and balance 75% be provided as additionality to GBS. Department of Road Transport and Highways is to construct the approach to road bridge. The preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for approach to road bridge is in progress and it is likely to be finalized by March, 2008.</p> <p><b>Road-cum-rail bridge at Munger, Bihar</b></p> <p>The proposal of providing project specific funds of Rs.392 crore towards the road share of Munger rail-cum-road bridge project in the Eleventh Plan has been approved. Rs.120 crore has been released to the Ministry of Railways towards road share of this project during the current financial year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
51. 76	<p><b>Revolving fund for creation and maintenance of infrastructure</b></p> <p>The Public Private Partnership (PPP) model has enabled greater private sector participation in the creation and maintenance of infrastructure. So far, under the viability gap funding scheme, 37 proposals have been received of which 21 proposals have been granted 'in-principle' approval with a total project cost of Rs.9,842 crore and an estimated viability gap funding of Rs.2,521 crore. The pace is slow, and there is a need to adopt a more aggressive approach for preparing a shelf of bankable projects that can be offered for competitive bidding. Apart from the steps already taken for capacity building and engaging consultants, I intend to set up a revolving fund with a corpus of Rs.100 crore to quicken project preparation. The fund will contribute up to 75 per cent of the preparatory expenditure in the form of interest free loan that will be eventually recovered from the successful bidder. Guidelines for operating the fund will be announced in due course.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments: D/o Economic Affairs]</p>	<p>The notification for "India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme" and guidelines thereon was issued on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2007.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action Completed</b></p>
52. 78	<p><b>Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks</b></p> <p>A rejuvenated textile industry is geared to meet the global challenge. 26 parks have been approved so far out of 30 sanctioned under the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP). I propose to increase the provision for these parks from Rs.189 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.425 crore in 2007-08.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Textiles]</p>	<p>Project proposals for development of 30 Integrated Textile Parks have been sanctioned. Estimated project cost of these parks is Rs.2,893 crore, of which Government of India assistance would be Rs.1,055 crore. So far, Central assistance of Rs.239 crore has been released for these projects against Budgetary allocation of Rs.450 crore in 2007-08 (including the provision for North eastern Region). Estimated investment in these parks is Rs.15,258 crore and estimated employment generation is 5.45 lakh persons (direct/indirect). These projects are expected to be</p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
		<p>completed by March 2009. However, a few units have already been commissioned in these parks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
53. 79	<p><b>Technology Upgradation Fund</b></p> <p>I am also glad to announce that the Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) scheme will be continued during the Eleventh Plan. Against a provision of Rs.535 crore in 2006-07, I propose to provide Rs.911 crore in 2007-08. As before, handlooms will be covered under the TUF scheme.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Textiles]</p>	<p>The entire budget provision of Rs.911 crore that was made for Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for 2007-08 has been released. The modified Scheme has been approved in consultation with the industry with effect from November 1, 2007.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
54. 80	<p><b>Enhanced Allocation for handloom sector</b></p> <p>A cluster approach for the development of the handloom sector was introduced in 2005-06 and 120 clusters have been selected. 273 new yarn depots have been opened in the current year and the Handloom Mark was launched. Government proposes to take up an additional 100-150 clusters in 2007-08. The 12 schemes that are now implemented will be grouped into five schemes in the Eleventh Plan period. The health insurance scheme has so far covered 300,000 weavers and will be extended to more weavers. The scheme will also be enlarged to include ancillary workers. I propose to enhance the allocation for the sector from Rs.241 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.321 crore next year.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Textiles]</p>	<p>The Revised Estimates are Rs.370 crore for the Handloom Sector for 2007-08. This includes Rs.63 crore for the North East.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Clusters Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS) was approved on November 26, 2007. Action Plans for 100 clusters of 2006-07 and 150 clusters of 2007-08 are ready. Under Phase-II and Phase-III, 127 Cluster Development Projects have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs.18.45 crore has been released.</li> <li>• Yarn Depots 659 yarn depots have been set up by December 25, 2007.</li> <li>• Handloom Mark 3,275 units have been registered and 64.48 lakh labels have been distributed as on December 31, 2007. 544 showrooms are selling handloom products bearing Handloom Mark labels.</li> <li>• Regrouping of existing schemes into 5 schemes During the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan, approval has been obtained to implement Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, Marketing &amp; Export Promotion Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme</li> <li>• Expanding Health Insurance The Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme with the components of Health Insurance Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana has been approved on October 1, 2007 and its scope has been widened to include the ancillary workers. The Health Insurance Scheme : It will cover not only the weavers but his wife and 2 children. With coverage of all pre-existing diseases as well as new diseases. Against the target of 17.74 lakh weavers to be achieved during the 2007-08, 8.50 lakh weavers have already been covered till December, 2007. Rs.68 crore has been released.</li> </ul>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
55.	<p><b>81 Banks to regard the credit rating of an SME while fixing the interest rate</b></p> <p>Following the credit policy for small and medium enterprises (SME) announced in August 2005, outstanding credit to the SME sector increased from Rs.135,200 crore at end December 2005 to Rs.173,460 crore at end December 2006. While encouraging banks to lend more to the SME sector, I propose to ask banks to have regard to the credit rating acquired by an SME while fixing the interest rate.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]</p>	<p>The Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana: It covers natural as well as accidental death. The benefit is extended to husband and wife and children which is restricted to two. Against the target of 10 lakh weavers to be achieved during the year 2007-08, 80,739 lakh weavers have already been covered till December, 2007. Rs.13 lakh has been released.</p> <p><b>Ongoing programme</b></p> <p>All the Public Sector Banks have confirmed that they have issued necessary instructions to all their branches to consider the credit rating of an SME while fixing the interest rate.</p> <p><b>Action completed</b></p>
56.	<p><b>82 Scheme for the technology upgradation of the coir industry</b></p> <p>Coir is an eco-friendly fibre. The coir industry provides employment to a large number as well as earns valuable foreign exchange. I am happy to announce a scheme for the modernisation and technology upgradation of the coir industry with special emphasis to major coir producing States such as Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. I propose to make a provision of Rs.22.50 crore.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Micro Small &amp; Medium Enterprises]</p>	<p>The Scheme for 'Rejuvenation, Modernization and Technology Upgradation of the Coir Industry' has been finalized. The total project cost of the proposed scheme is Rs.243 crore involving a budgetary support of Rs.99 crore, term loan of Rs.132 crore from Banks/Financial Institutions and beneficiary contribution of Rs. 12 crore.</p> <p><b>Action completed</b></p>
57.	<p><b>85 Initiatives in banking and insurance.</b></p> <p>In addition to the important legislative measures now before Parliament, Government proposes to take a number of initiatives in Banking and Insurance.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]</p>	<p>The Payment and Settlement Systems Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament and after the assent of the President was published in the Gazette of India and thus has become an Act.</p> <p>The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, State Bank of India Amendment Bill and Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation) Bill are at various stages for obtaining Parliamentary approval.</p> <p>On the recommendations of the Law Commission/KPN Committee and Insurance Regulatory &amp; Development Authority (IRDA), it is proposed to amend the Insurance laws. Accordingly, a Cabinet Note on Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was prepared and submitted to the Cabinet. The Cabinet referred the Bill to the Group of Ministers (GOM) for consideration, which has yet to make its final recommendation.</p> <p><b>Pending approval from Parliament</b></p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
58. 86	<p><b>Acquiring of RBI's equity holding in State Bank of India by Government</b> Government proposes to acquire RBI's equity holding in State Bank of India. I have provided a sum of Rs.40,000 crore for this purpose, but the transaction will be deficit neutral to the Government.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]</p>	<p>RBI shareholding in SBI was acquired by Government on June 29, 2007 against a cash payment of Rs.35,531 crores. <b>Action completed</b></p>
59. 87	<p><b>Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) scheme</b> The Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) scheme provides finance at a rate of 4 per cent to the weaker sections of the community engaged in gainful occupations. I propose to raise the limit of the loan from Rs.6,500 to Rs.15,000 and the limit of the housing loan from Rs.5,000 to Rs.20,000 per beneficiary.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]</p>	<p>RBI has issued a circular on June 13, 2007 to all Scheduled Commercial Banks to raise the limit of the loan from Rs. 6,500 to Rs. 15,000 and the limit of the housing loan from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 20,000 per beneficiary. According to the reports received from the Public Sector Banks (PSBs), guidelines regarding enhancement in loan limits under the DRI scheme have been communicated to their offices and branches. <b>Action completed.</b></p>
60. 88	<p><b>Regional Rural Banks</b> Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have emerged as the third arm for delivering rural credit, and the sponsor banks have assured me that RRBs are willing to take on greater responsibilities. The Committee on Financial Inclusion, chaired by Dr. C. Rangarajan, has also made certain recommendations concerning RRBs. I, therefore, propose to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ask RRBs to undertake an aggressive branch expansion programme and, in 2007-08, open at least one branch in the 80 uncovered districts of the country;</li> <li>• extend the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securitisation of Interest (SARFAESI) Act to loans advanced by RRBs;</li> <li>• permit RRBs to accept NRE/FCNR deposits; and</li> <li>• recapitalize, in a phased programme, the RRBs which have a negative net worth.</li> </ul> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]</p>	<p>RBI has issued licences for 321 Regional Rural Bank (RRB) branches till date as against which 122 RRB branches have been opened. 39 RRB branches are in uncovered districts. <b>Work under progress</b></p> <p>Application of the SARFAESI Act to RRBs- Notification was issued on May 17, 2007. <b>Action completed</b></p> <p>RBI has permitted RRBs to accept NRE/FCNR(B) deposits. <b>Action completed</b></p> <p>The proposal for recapitalisation of RRBs and contribution of Central Government to the extent of 50% of its share of Rs.1,796 crore i.e., Rs.898 crore has been approved on January 30, 2008. <b>Action completed</b></p>
61. 89	<p><b>Reverse mortgage Scheme</b> The National Housing Bank (NHB) will shortly introduce a novel product for senior citizens: a 'reverse mortgage' under which a senior citizen who is the owner of a house can avail of a monthly stream of income against the mortgage</p>	<p>The final operational guidelines for Reverse Mortgage Loan (RML) to Banks was issued by the NHB on May 31, 2007. The scheme is in operation. The details of the scheme are available on NHB web site at <a href="http://nhb.org.in">nhb.org.in</a>. <b>Action completed</b></p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
	of his/her house, while remaining the owner and occupying the house throughout his/her lifetime, without repayment or servicing of the loan.	
	[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]	
62. 90	<p><b>Creation of mortgage guarantee companies</b></p> <p>Our people want housing loans. Banks and housing finance companies that lend against mortgages would have greater comfort if the mortgage can be guaranteed through a three way contract among borrower, lender and guarantor. Regulations will be put in place to allow the creation of mortgage guarantee companies.</p>	<p>The notification to the effect that mortgage guarantee companies will be treated as Non Banking Financial Companies has been issued. The guidelines on the regulatory framework for mortgage guarantee companies have been placed in the public domain for comments.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Work under progress</b></p>
	[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]	
63. 91	<p><b>Health insurance schemes for senior citizens</b></p> <p>On December 6, 2006, Rashtrapatiji launched an exclusive health insurance scheme for senior citizens offered by National Insurance Company. I have asked the other three public sector insurance companies to offer a similar product to senior citizens, and they have agreed to do so in 2007-08.</p>	<p>The Health Insurance schemes for senior citizens by New India Assurance Co. Ltd, Oriental Insurance Co.Ltd and United India Insurance Co. Ltd. have been launched.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed.</b></p>
	[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]	
64. 92	<p><b>Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation) Bill</b></p> <p>The Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation) Bill as well as a comprehensive Bill to amend the insurance laws will be introduced in the Budget Session.</p>	<p>The Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation) Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 20, 2007 and is under consideration of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance.</p> <p>On the recommendations of the Law Commission/KPN Committee and Insurance Regulatory &amp; Development Authority (IRDA), it has been proposed to amend the Insurance laws. Accordingly, a Cabinet Note on Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was prepared and submitted to the Cabinet. The Cabinet referred the Bill to the Group of Ministers (GOM) for consideration, which has yet to make its final recommendation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Pending approval from Parliament</b></p>
	[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]	
65. 93	<p><b>Setting up Financial Inclusion Fund and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund under NABARD</b></p> <p>Financial inclusion is the process of ensuring access to timely and adequate credit and financial services by vulnerable groups at an affordable cost. The Committee on Financial</p>	<p>NABARD has prepared the Action Plan for Financial Inclusion Fund and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund. The Financial Inclusion Fund and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund are being set up with an initial corpus of</p>



S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
	<p>Inclusion has given an interim report. While we await the final report, Government has decided to implement, immediately, two recommendations. The first is to establish a Financial Inclusion Fund with NABARD for meeting the cost of developmental and promotional interventions. The second is to establish a Financial Inclusion Technology Fund to meet the costs of technology adoption. Each fund will have an overall corpus of Rs.500 crore, with initial funding to be contributed by the Central Government, RBI and NABARD.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Financial Services]</p>	<p>Rs.25 crore each with contributions from Government of India, RBI and NABARD in the ratio of 40:40:20. The guidelines for operation of these funds are being finalised. A budget provision of Rs.10 crore each has been made at the RE stage for 2007-08 for each of the two funds.</p> <p><b>Work under progress</b></p>
66. 94	<p><b>Measures to strengthen capital markets</b></p> <p>The capital market is an important instrument for intermediating financial resources. Recognising the strength of the Indian capital market, the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) has decided to hold its annual conference in Mumbai in April 2007. In line with measures announced every year to strengthen the market, I propose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make PAN the sole identification number for all participants in the securities market with an alpha-numeric prefix or suffix to distinguish a particular kind of account;</li> <li>• take forward the idea of Self Regulating Organisations (SRO) for different market participants under regulations that will be made by SEBI and, if necessary, supported by an enabling law;</li> <li>• promote the flow of investment to the infrastructure sector by permitting mutual funds to launch and operate dedicated infrastructure funds;</li> <li>• converge the different regulations that allow individuals and Indian mutual funds to invest in overseas securities by permitting individuals to invest through Indian mutual funds;</li> <li>• allow short selling settled by delivery, and securities lending and borrowing to facilitate delivery, by institutions;</li> <li>• put in place an enabling mechanism to permit Indian companies to unlock a part of their holdings in group companies for meeting their financing requirements by issue of Exchangeable Bonds.</li> </ul> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Economic Affairs]</p>	<p>SEBI has issued a circular on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 making PAN the sole identification number for all transactions, irrespective of amount, in the securities market.</p> <p><b>Action Completed</b></p> <p>The process of amending the SEBI (SRO Regulations) 2004 has been initiated by SEBI and will be completed shortly.</p> <p><b>Work under progress</b></p> <p>The exercise to implement the recommendations of the Committee set up by SEBI to consider permitting mutual funds to launch and operate dedicated infrastructure funds is underway and is likely to be completed shortly.</p> <p><b>Work under progress</b></p> <p>A circular has been issued by SEBI on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, expanding the investment avenues for mutual funds overseas.</p> <p><b>Action Completed</b></p> <p>The scheme is expected to be operational before the end of 2007-08.</p> <p><b>Work under progress</b></p> <p>The scheme will be announced before the end of 2007-08.</p> <p><b>Work under progress</b></p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
67. 95	<p><b>Permitting India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) to borrow funds from NSSF</b></p> <p>The minimum obligation of States to borrow from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) has been brought down to 80 per cent of net collections. Repayments of past NSSF loans by the Central and State Governments have also commenced from 2005-06, making available resources for long-term lending. I therefore propose that these funds may also be borrowed from NSSF by India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL).</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Economic Affairs]</p>	<p>The amendment to the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) (Custody and Investment) Rules, 2001, for an enabling provision for investment of the redeemed funds in Central Government securities or in such other instruments as may be decided by the Central Government was issued on September 12, 2007.</p> <p>An investment of Rs.1,500 crore in India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) from National Small Savings Fund has been approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
68. 97	<p><b>Recommendations of Deepak Parekh Committee</b></p> <p>A committee chaired by Shri Deepak Parekh has made a number of recommendations for financing infrastructure. One of the recommendations is to use a small part of the foreign exchange reserves without the risk of monetary expansion. The Committee has suggested the establishment of two wholly-owned overseas subsidiaries of IIFCL with the following objectives:</p> <p>(i) to borrow funds from the RBI and lend to Indian companies implementing infrastructure projects in India, or to co-finance their ECBs for such projects, solely for capital expenditure outside India; and</p> <p>(ii) to borrow funds from the RBI, invest such funds in highly rated collateral securities, and provide 'credit wrap' insurance to infrastructure projects in India for raising resources in international markets.</p> <p>The loans by RBI to these two subsidiary companies will be guaranteed by the Government of India and the RBI will be assured of a return higher than the average rate of return on its incremental investment. Government proposes to examine the legal and regulatory aspects of the recommendation, in consultation with RBI, in order to find an innovative method of enhancing the financial resources for infrastructure.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Economic Affairs]</p>	<p>The recommendations of the Committee have been examined. The recommendation for the establishment of a wholly owned subsidiary of IIFCL with investment of foreign exchange reserves by the RBI has been approved by the RBI Board. Investments will be guaranteed by the Government of India.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
69. 99	<p><b>Programme for e-governance</b></p> <p>Government has launched an ambitious programme for e-governance. The goal is to improve efficiency, convenience, accessibility and transparency in Government functions and</p>	<p><b>Progress of E-Governance Plan</b></p> <p>The National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) encompasses nine central Mission Mode Projects (MMPs), eleven state MMPs and seven integrated MMPs that span multiple backend Ministries/Departments. It also includes eight</p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
	<p>take Government services to the common citizen. I propose to increase the allocation for e-governance from Rs.395 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.719 crore in 2007-08. The Central Government supports e-governance action plans at State levels, and I propose to increase the allocation for such support from Rs.300 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.500 crore in 2007-08. I also propose to provide Rs.33 crore for a new scheme of manpower development for the software export industry.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Information Technology]</p>	<p>programme support components aimed at creating the right governance and institutional mechanisms, core infrastructure, policies &amp; standards and the necessary legal framework for adoption of e-governance.</p> <p>The NeGP was approved in May 2006. The MCA 21 project completed implementation in September last year. Detailed schemes for individual MMPs like the Common Service Centers, e-Courts and Municipalities were drawn up by the concerned Ministries and approval obtained. New projects like the e-District and UID (unique id for each resident) were added to the NeGP. Notable progress has been made in projects like Passports, Agriculture, Income Tax, Central Excise, National Citizen Database and National Service Delivery Gateway.</p> <p>A scheme for manpower development for software export industry at a total cost of Rs.49 crore over a three year period has been approved.</p>
70. 100	<p><b>Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)</b> The Backward Regions Grant Fund received Rs.5,000 crore in 2006-07. I propose to increase the allocation to Rs.5,800 crore in 2007-08. This will finance two components, one pertaining to 250 districts and the other pertaining to the special plan for Bihar. KBK districts of Orissa, which are included in the 250 districts, will continue to receive the same quantum of assistance as they have been receiving in the past.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministries/Departments: Planning Commission D/o Expenditure]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p> <p>The Revised Estimates 2007-08 for the district component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund are Rs. 3,600 crore. For the Special Plan for Bihar and the KBK Districts of Orissa, Rs 1,130 crore has been provided.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>
71. 101	<p><b>Mumbai as an International Financial Centre</b> The High Powered Expert Committee to make Mumbai a regional financial centre has submitted its report recently. I intend to place the report in the public domain and obtain feedback. It is my hope that we would be able to build a consensus on the key recommendations of the Committee, promote a world class financial centre in Mumbai, and realise the objective of making 'financial services' the next growth engine for India.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Economic Affairs]</p>	<p>The Report of the High Powered Expert Committee to make Mumbai an International Financial Centre has been released. The full text of the report has also been placed on the Ministry's website <a href="http://www.finmin.nic.in/mifc.html">http://www.finmin.nic.in/mifc.html</a> inviting feedback from the public.</p> <p>A presentation was made to the Prime Minister on August 24, 2007. The recommendations identified for priority implementation have been circulated to the concerned regulators/agencies for comments/views on the process of implementing the recommendations.</p> <p>An Action Plan has been drawn up and is being implemented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
72. 102	<p><b>Task Force on Skill Development</b> To sustain a high level of economic growth, it is essential to have a reservoir of skilled and trained manpower. Shortages have already</p>	<p>The Task Force on Skill Development constituted by Planning Commission has submitted its Final Report. The report has been examined by the Planning Commission and</p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
	<p>emerged in a number of sectors. Moreover, we can take advantage of the demographic dividend thrown up by an increase in the working age population only if our young men and women have the required skills. The Prime Minister spoke of a Vocational Education Mission in his Independence Day address in 2006. A taskforce in the Planning Commission is chalking out strategies for vocational education programmes. Alternate models may be adopted, but the approach will be based on public-private partnership. I propose to make an initial provision of Rs.50 crore for beginning work on this mission.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Planning Commission]</p>	<p>a proposal is being submitted to the Cabinet for approval. <b>Work under progress</b></p>
73. 103	<p><b>Upgradation of 500 ITIs</b></p> <p>Honourable Members will recall that Government had taken up a programme for upgradation of 500 ITIs over five years beginning 2005. Revised courses in the first lot of 100 upgraded ITIs were started in August 2005 and in the second lot of 100 upgraded ITIs in August 2006. I expect that another 300 ITIs will be covered by August 2009. That would still leave 1,396 Government ITIs.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Labour &amp; Employment]</p>	<p>The implementation of the scheme of Vocational Training Improvement with World Bank assistance has been approved. Loan agreement between World Bank and Government of India was signed on November 2, 2007.</p> <p>100 ITIs were identified for upgradation during 2006-07. 138 ITIs have been identified during 2007-08. <b>Action completed</b></p>
74. 104	<p><b>Upgradation of 1,396 ITIs into centres of excellence</b></p> <p>I propose that the 1,396 ITIs be upgraded into centres of excellence in specific trades and skills under public-private partnership. Under the proposed scheme, the State Government, as the owner of the ITI, will continue to regulate admissions and fees; the new management will be given academic and financial autonomy; and the Central Government will provide financial assistance by way of seed money. ITIs will be encouraged to start a second shift. Once a tripartite MoU is signed among the three stakeholders, I propose to grant an interest free loan up to Rs.2.5 crore to each ITI for upgradation and revision of courses. I seek the cooperation of State Governments in upgrading at least 300 ITIs every year, beginning 2007-08, under the PPP mode. I have kept aside Rs.750 crore for this purpose.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Labour &amp; Employment]</p>	<p>The scheme "Upgradation of 1,396 Govt. ITIs through Public Private Partnership" has been approved. The scheme has been launched and guidelines for implementation of the scheme have been issued. The scheme has a proposed outlay of Rs.3,665 crore.</p> <p>21 States have identified 309 ITIs and corresponding industry partners for upgradation during the first year. The remaining States are in the process of identifying the ITIs and industry partners. <b>Action completed</b></p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
75. 105	<p><b>Employment scheme for physically challenged persons</b></p> <p>Among the disadvantaged sections of the society are physically challenged persons. They face difficulties in obtaining regular employment. In order to incentivise employers in the organised sector to provide regular employment, I propose a scheme whereunder Government will reward the employer once the physically challenged employee is regularised and is enrolled under the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and the Employees State Insurance (ESI). Under the scheme, Government will reimburse the employer's contribution to the EPF and ESI for the first three years. Government is ready to support the creation of about 100,000 jobs every year for physically challenged persons with a salary limit of Rs.25,000 per month. I estimate the cost to Government at Rs.150 crore per annum rising to Rs.450 crore per annum when the scheme is fully rolled out. I have therefore earmarked Rs.1,800 crore.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Social Justice &amp; Empowerment]</p>	<p>The employment Scheme for physically challenged persons has been approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
76. 106	<p><b>Debt Management Office</b></p> <p>World over, debt management is distinct from monetary management. The establishment of a Debt Management Office (DMO) in the Government has been advocated for quite some time. The fiscal consolidation achieved so far has encouraged us to take the first step. Accordingly, I propose to set up an autonomous DMO and, in the first phase, a Middle Office will be set up to facilitate the transition to a full-fledged DMO.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Economic Affairs]</p>	<p>Separation of the debt management function from the monetary authority would be operationalised by the setting up of a Debt Management Office. This will be implemented in phases, starting with the creation of a Middle Office in the Ministry of Finance. The proposals relating to the organizational set-up and the functions/responsibilities of the Middle Office have already been approved. The modalities of operationalising the Middle Office are being worked out.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
77. 107	<p><b>India International Development Cooperation Agency</b></p> <p>In keeping with India's growing stature in international affairs, we must willingly assume greater responsibility in promoting development in other developing countries. At present, India extends development cooperation through a number of Ministries and agencies and the total sum is about US\$ 1 billion per annum. It is felt that all activities relating to development cooperation should be brought under one umbrella. Accordingly, Government proposes to establish the India International Development Cooperation Agency (IIDCA). The Ministries of External Affairs, Finance and Commerce and other stakeholders will be represented on IIDCA.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o External Affairs]</p>	<p>The agency is to be named India Agency for Partnership in Development (IAPD). The proposal for setting up the IAPD is being finalised.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Work under progress</b></p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
78. 108	<p><b>Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change</b></p> <p>India is not a significant contributor to green house gas (GHG) emissions, nor will it be so in the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, in line with the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility”, India has taken important steps to mitigate GHG emissions and adapt to climate change impact. India has also strongly promoted the clean development mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol and has the world’s largest number of CDM projects. Nevertheless, India is among the countries more vulnerable to climate change. Hence, Government proposes to appoint an expert committee to study the impact of climate change on India and identify the measures that we may have to take in the future.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Environment &amp; Forests]</p>	<p>An Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change under the Chairmanship of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India (Shri R. Chidambaram) has been set up. The Terms of Reference of the Committee include:</p> <p>(a) To study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India;</p> <p>(b) To identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts;</p> <p>(c) Any other matter relevant to (a) and (b) above.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
79. 109	<p><b>Commonwealth Games</b></p> <p>India bid for and won for the city of Delhi the Commonwealth Games 2010. The nation was filled with pride when, under the guidance of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, we successfully hosted the Asian Games in 1982. We owe it to our people to make the Commonwealth Games an equally memorable event. I propose to provide in 2007-08 Rs.150 crore to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Rs.350 crore to the Delhi Government for the Games. Similarly, I propose to provide Rs.50 crore for the Commonwealth Youth Games 2008 to be held in Pune.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Youth Affairs &amp; Sports]</p>	<p>The budget proposals of (i) Sports Authority of India (SAI) for sports infrastructure, (ii) Organizing Committee (OC) Commonwealth Games (CWG), 2010 for conduct of the Games; and (iii) All India Tennis Association (AITA) for venue for Tennis have been approved. Funds are being released to these agencies in phases. Government has so far released the following funds to:</p> <p>i) OC, CWG-2010: Rs.173 crore as loan towards international commitments i.e CGF free/immediate requirements etc. in respect of conduct of the Games.</p> <p>ii) SAI: Rs.159 crore towards creation/upgradation of sports infrastructure for CWG, 2010.</p> <p>iii) AITA: Rs.50 lakh towards upgradation of R.K.Khanna Lawn Tennis Stadium.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action completed</b></p>
80. 110	<p><b>Funds for institutions that continue the work of Gandhiji</b></p> <p>As we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> year of the First War of Independence and the centenary year of the Satyagraha Movement, our thoughts go to the institutions that continue the work of Gandhiji and other constructive work. I intend to set apart Rs.30 crore for four institutions whose work we gratefully acknowledge. These are Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad; Sevagram Ashram, Wardha; Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune; and Rajendra Smriti Sangrahalaya, Patna. I also intend to provide Rs.20 crore to reposition the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Delhi, as a major centre of intellectual activity.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Culture]</p>	<p>Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad – Rs.10 crore was included in the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants 2007-08 and the amount has already been released.</p> <p>Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, - Rs.5 crore was included in the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants 2007-08 and the amount has already been released.</p> <p>Nehru Memorial Museum &amp; Library (NMM&amp;L), New Delhi – Rs.20 crore was included in the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants 2007-08 and the amount has already been released.</p> <p>Sewa Gram Ashram, Wardha- The Institute declined the budgetary support and the amount has been awarded to Gandhi Peace Foundation.</p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
81. 111	<p><b>Engaging scholars from Indian and foreign institutions to work on specific projects</b> The Ministry of Culture proposes to engage scholars from Indian and foreign institutions to work on specific projects. The terms of engagement will provide freedom and flexibility to the scholars. I intend to make an initial grant of Rs.5 crore to encourage this effort.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Culture]</p>	<p>Rajendra Smriti Sangrahalaya, Patna - A requirement of funds of Rs.10 crore submitted by the Rajendra Smriti Sangrahalaya, Patna, has been approved. The amount will be included by the Ministry of Culture in the proposal for 3<sup>rd</sup> batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants. <b>Action completed</b></p> <p>A token provision of Rs.0.01 crore was approved in the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants 2007-08. The new scheme called "Fellowships to Scholars for Flexible Engagement in Knowledge Institution under the Ministry of Culture" is under finalization. <b>Work under progress</b></p>
82. 112	<p><b>Grant to Agricultural Universities</b> As in the last two years, I propose to make a special grant of Rs.100 crore to recognize excellence. Government has selected the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture &amp; Technology, Pantnagar and the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, and each will be given Rs.50 crore.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Agricultural Research and Education]</p>	<p>Special grants of Rs. 50 crore each for Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture &amp; Technology, Pantnagar and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore have been approved. Rs. 25 crore each has been released to the two Universities. <b>Action completed.</b></p>
83. 116	<p><b>Roadmap for introducing a national level Goods and Services Tax (GST)</b> I wish to record my deep appreciation of the spirit of cooperative federalism displayed by State Governments and especially their Finance Ministers. At my request, the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has agreed to work with the Central Government to prepare a roadmap for introducing a national level Goods and Services Tax (GST) with effect from April 1, 2010.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Revenue]</p>	<p>The Terms of Reference of the Empowered Committee of the State Finance Ministers (EC) have been amended to enable the EC "to work with the Central Government to prepare a roadmap for introducing Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the country with effect from April 1, 2010 and to deal with all the related matters." EC set up a Joint Working Group on May 10, 2007 comprising officials of the Central Government and State Governments. The Joint Working Group has submitted its report to the EC. The Report, with EC's recommendations, will be finalized shortly. <b>Work under progress</b></p>
84. 159	<p><b>Committee to study the present structure of levies and make recommendations</b> The telecommunications industry has repeatedly requested that the multifarious taxes, charges and fees applicable to the industry should be unified and a single levy on revenue should be collected. The request merits consideration. Hence, I propose to request the Department of Telecommunications to constitute a committee to study the present structure of levies and make suitable recommendations to Government.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Telecommunication D/o Revenue]</p>	<p>A Departmental Sub-Committee was constituted by the Department of Telecommunications on April 27, 2007 to study/review the present structure of taxes and levies applicable in the telecom sector. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government. <b>Action completed</b></p>

S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
85. 183	<p><b>Tax Administration</b></p> <p>Along with tax reforms, the Government has laid great emphasis on tax administration. The cost of collection of taxes in India is among the lowest in the world. A number of administrative goals have been set for 2007-08. These include expanding the coverage of Annual Information Returns, extending the Refund Banker System to more areas, extending the e-payment facility through more banks, making electronic filing of returns mandatory for more categories of assessees and creating new Large Tax Payer Units.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: D/o Revenue]</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="810 271 1490 367">1. <b>Annual Information Returns:</b> The matter relating to expanding the coverage of Annual Information Returns (AIR ) is under consideration.</li> <li data-bbox="810 409 1490 607">2. <b>Refund Banker Scheme for CBDT:</b> Refund Banker Scheme has been extended to four metro charges and Bangalore as scheduled from September 30, 2007 (except corporate and exemption charges). A help centre (call centre) has been provided for Refund Banker related queries.</li> <li data-bbox="810 649 1490 1682">3. <b>Expanding e-payment facility through banks CBDT:</b> <p><b>CBDT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="858 757 1490 819">• Scheme of mandatory e-payment of taxes is proposed to be made effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008.</li> <li data-bbox="858 862 1358 893">• 18 Banks are now offering e-payment.</li> <li data-bbox="858 936 1394 967">• 9 more banks will shortly offer this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>CBEC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="858 1032 1490 1509">• The Pilot project of e-payment of Customs Duties was completed in Delhi with four banks viz. Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, Union Bank of India and Corporation Bank at three customs locations. Now e-payment is operational at 28 (twenty eight) locations. E-payment facility is expected to be launched soon in remaining locations at Ahemadabad, Mundra and Trivandrum. Instructions have already been issued to various Customs Houses as well as some Banks to install the modified software. At some other locations, testing is still underway with the banks and efforts are being made to launch e-payment at these locations by March 2008.</li> <li data-bbox="858 1552 1490 1682">• E-payment has been made mandatory for major assesses, i.e., those paying annual revenue of more than Rs.50 lakh – in Service Tax from October, 2006 and for Central Excise from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007.</li> </ul> </li> <li data-bbox="810 1724 1490 2058">4. <b>Making e-filing of returns mandatory for more categories of assessees</b> <p><b>CBDT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="858 1861 1490 1957">• The announcement in respect of extending the scheme of e-filing to more categories of tax payers has been implemented.</li> <li data-bbox="858 2000 1490 2058">• As on January 17, 2008, 14.15 lakh returns had been filed electronically.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>



S.No. Para No.	Budget Announcement	Status of Implementation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic filing is compulsory for companies and firms subject to audit u/s 44AB and the due date for filing was November 15, 2007.</li> </ul> <p><b>CBEC:</b> The ACES (Automation in Central Excise &amp; Service Tax) project is undergoing the User Acceptance Test (UAT) in select Commissionerates of Central Excise and Service Tax. Making electronic filing of returns mandatory for assesseees would entail stabilization and extension of ACES to all Commissionerates and Assesseees.</p> <p><b>5. Creating more LTUs</b></p> <p><b>CBDT:</b> The LTU at Bangalore was made operational in October, 2006 and that at Chennai became operational on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2007. Proposals for creating necessary infrastructure for setting up of LTU offices at Mumbai and Delhi are under examination.</p> <p><b>CBEC:</b> First LTU is operational at Bangalore since October, 2006 and the second LTU has been made operational at Chennai from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2007.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ongoing programme</b></p>