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STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS, 2017-18

Sl. No.	Para No.	Text of Announcement(s)	Status of implementation																									
1.	21	<p>In last year's Budget speech, I focused on 'income security' of farmers to double their income in 5 years. I had also announced a number of measures. We have to take more steps and enable the farmers to increase their production and productivity; and to deal with post-harvest challenges.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & FW</p>	<p>The Group of Secretaries, Agriculture & Allied Sector has deliberated the issue of doubling of farmers' income and presented its recommendations. Besides this, NITI Aayog has also prepared a strategy paper on doubling of farmers' income. The strategy paper has been circulated to all States for formulating state specific action plans.</p> <p>Further, the Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee on 'Doubling of Farmers' Income'. Though the Committee has not yet submitted report, it has been recommending various interventions needed. The Department has rolled out several new initiatives during the year 2017-18. These included (i) emphasis on self-sufficiency in pulses (ii) increasing investments in agri-infrastructure (iii) promotion of agri-enterprises by amending RKVY guidelines and reserving ten per cent of the allocations for agri-enterprises and incubation centres (iv) market reforms to create a competitive environment for price discovery for which a Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 has been prepared and shared with the States.</p>																									
2.	22	<p>For a good crop, adequate credit should be available to farmers in time. The target for agricultural credit in 2017-18 has been fixed at a record level of ₹ 10 lakh crore. We will take special efforts to ensure adequate flow of credit to the under serviced areas, the Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir. The farmers will also benefit from 60 days' interest waiver announced by Honourable Prime Minister in respect of their loans from the cooperative credit structure.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & FW Department of Financial Services]</p>	<p>Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare</p> <p>Against the target of Agriculture Credit disbursement of ₹ 10 lakh crore for 2017-18, out flow till October, 2017 is ₹ 6,71,113.42 crore. The target and achievement of Short Term Crop loan and Term loan till October, 2017 are as under:-</p> <p align="right"><i>(Amount in ₹ crore)</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Short Term Crop Loan</th> <th>Term Loan</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Target</td> <td>6,80,000.00</td> <td>3,20,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Achievement</td> <td>4,41,554.67</td> <td>2,29,558.75</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Agriculture Credit Flow Target to the under-serviced areas, the Eastern State and Jammu & Kashmir and the achievement (till 31.10.2017) are as under:-</p> <p align="right"><i>(Amount in ₹ Crore)</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No.</th> <th>Region</th> <th>Target for 2017-18</th> <th>Achievement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Eastern Region</td> <td>130140.00</td> <td>48,640.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Central Region</td> <td>196330.00</td> <td>88,280.84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Jammu & Kashmir</td> <td>4600.00</td> <td>5,964.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Department of Financial Services:</p> <p>The region-wise, agency-wise and purpose-wise agriculture credit target of ₹10 lakh crore has since been conveyed to RBI, NABARD, IBA and PSBs for the year 2017-18.</p>	Item	Short Term Crop Loan	Term Loan	Target	6,80,000.00	3,20,000.00	Achievement	4,41,554.67	2,29,558.75	Sl. No.	Region	Target for 2017-18	Achievement	1	Eastern Region	130140.00	48,640.18	2.	Central Region	196330.00	88,280.84	3	Jammu & Kashmir	4600.00	5,964.00
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3.	23	<p>About 40% of the small and marginal farmers avail credit from the cooperative structure. The Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) act as the front end for loan disbursements. We will support NABARD for computerisation and</p>	<p>Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare has held a review meeting with representatives of State Governments/UTs to discuss the issues relating to computerization of PACS of States/UTs and NABARD on 28.9.2017. 18 States/UTs have expressed interest in the project.</p> <p>EFC meeting to consider the proposal for computerization of</p>																									

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS, 2017-18

Sl. No.	Para No.	Text of Announcement(s)	Status of implementation
		<p>integration of all 63,000 functional PACS with the Core Banking System of District Central Cooperative Banks. This will be done in 3 years at an estimated cost of ₹ 1,900 crore, with financial participation from State Governments. This will ensure seamless flow of credit to small and marginal farmers.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & FW]</p>	PACS was held on 15.01.2018.
4.	24	<p>At the time of sowing, farmers should feel secure against natural calamities. The <i>Fasal Bima Yojana</i> launched by our Government is a major step in this direction. The coverage of this scheme will be increased from 30% of cropped area in 2016-17 to 40% in 2017-18 and 50% in 2018-19. The Budget provision of ₹ 5,500 crore for this Yojana in BE 2016-17 was increased to ₹13,240 crore in RE 2016-17 to settle the arrear claims. For 2017-18, I have provided a sum of ₹ 9,000 crore. The sum insured under this Yojana has more than doubled from ₹ 69,000 crore in Kharif 2015 to ₹ 1,41,625 crore in Kharif 2016.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare]</p>	<p>Keeping in view the risks involved in farming activities, the Government is taking progressive steps through Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme to ensure that farmers feel secure against natural calamities. The action taken in this regard is as follows:</p> <p>The revised Budgetary Allocation for the above schemes was ₹11,054.63 crore at final RE stage for 2016-17 and this entire allocation was utilised by Government towards its 50% share as premium subsidy in Kharif 2016 under PMFBY and RWBCIS and for past liabilities under NAIS.</p> <p><u>Status of Kharif 2016 claims:</u> Estimated: ₹ 9837.49 crore Approved: ₹ 9546.55 crore Paid: ₹ 8902.96 crore</p> <p><u>Claims of Rabi 2016-17 are:</u> Estimated: ₹ 5084.21crore Approved: ₹ 3701.63 crore Paid: ₹ 2733.67 crore</p> <p>Of a total allocation of ₹ 9000.75 crore for 2017-18, ₹ 8058.75 crore has already been released /utilised so far.</p>
5.	25	<p>Issuance of Soil Health Cards has gathered momentum. The real benefit to farmers would be available only when the soil samples are tested quickly and nutrient level of the soil is known. Government will therefore set up new mini labs in <i>Krishi Vigyan Kendras</i> (KVKs) and ensure 100% coverage of all 648 KVKs in the country. In addition, 1000 mini labs will be set up by qualified local entrepreneurs. Government will provide credit linked subsidy to these entrepreneurs.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & FW]</p>	<p>Funds amounting to ₹ 925.36 lakh have been released to ICAR under RKVY Scheme, for setting up 1076 new mini labs and 100% coverage of all 648 KVKs.</p> <p>Scheme for setting up mini labs by local entrepreneurs has been approved by EFC on 29.11.2017.</p>
6.	26	<p>A Long Term Irrigation Fund has already been set up in NABARD. Honourable Prime Minister has</p>	<p>A long term irrigation fund has been created under NABARD for PMKSY (AIBP) projects. The Government on 16.08.2017 approved the proposal for raising zero cost bonds up to ₹ 9,020</p>

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS, 2017-18

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		announced an addition of ₹ 20, 000 crore to its corpus. This will take the total corpus of this Fund to ₹ 40,000 crore. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR]	crore during FY 2017-18 for keeping interest rate @ 6%. During 2017-18, CA of ₹ 1,720.68 crore has been sanctioned for release through NABARD for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme & Command Area Development works. Further, State share of ₹ 3,390.37 crore for prioritised projects has been released through NABARD. In addition, an amount of ₹ 1,297.58 crore has been sanctioned for release through NABARD for Polavaram Project of Andhra Pradesh during the year.
7.	27	A dedicated Micro Irrigation Fund will be set up in NABARD to achieve the goal, 'per drop more crop'. The Fund will have an initial corpus of ₹5,000 crore. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers]	Letters have been sent to states and UTs with various suggestions for optimum and effective utilisations of the corpus fund and they have been requested to convey their State specific options/requirements to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Framers' Welfare. The draft concept note and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA to be signed between state Governments, Government of India and NABARD) has been circulated to states for comments. Based on the comments/ inputs received from the States, the draft Cabinet Note is being prepared for operationlising the corpus fund. The meeting of the EFC to consider PMKSY-Corpus for Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) was held on 28-11-2017. It was decided in the meeting to recast the EFC proposal. Accordingly, the EFC proposal has been restructured and submitted to Department of Expenditure. EFC Meeting was held to consider the proposal.
8.	28	For the post-harvest phase, we will take steps to enable farmers to get better prices for their produce in the markets. The coverage of National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) will be expanded from the current 250 markets to 585 APMCs. Assistance up to a ceiling of ₹ 75 lakh will be provided to every e-NAM market for establishment of cleaning, grading and packaging facilities. This will lead to value addition of farmers' produce. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare]	470 markets have been integrated with e-NAM portal as on 31.12.2017. The proposal of enhanced assistance of ₹75 lakh per market is under consideration at present. 470 Mandis across 14 states are alive on e-NAM as on 31.10.2017.
9.	29	Market reforms will be undertaken and the States would be urged to de-notify perishables from APMC. This will give opportunity to farmers to sell their produce and get better prices. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare]	A meeting on Agriculture Sector Reforms was held on 24.04.17 under the chairmanship of the Minister for Agriculture. Hon'ble Ministers in Charge of agriculture marketing of 16 States/UTs, senior Officers of all States/UTs and related Departments of Government of India participated. The new Model Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 was released for adoption by the States. The provisions included deregulation of fruits and vegetables from APMCs. So far 14 States/UTs

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			have made reform in varied form. Remaining States are constantly being urged to adopt the reforms in letter and spirit.
10.	30	<p>We also propose to integrate farmers who grow fruits and vegetables with agro-processing units for better price realisation and reduction of post-harvest losses. A model law on contract farming would therefore be prepared and circulated among the States for adoption.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare]</p>	<p>The Model Act has been hosted on the website inviting comments from stakeholders. It is expected to be finalized soon.</p> <p>A Draft Act entitled ...<i>The ---State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming (Promotion and Facilitation) Act</i> has been drafted. The Draft Model Act has been circulated in December 2017 for comments from Ministries/stakeholders concerned for finalisation.</p>
11.	31	<p>Dairy is an important source of additional income for the farmers. Availability of milk processing facility and other infrastructure will benefit the farmers through value addition. A large number of milk processing units set up under the Operation Flood Programme has since become old and obsolete. A Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund would be set up in NABARD with a corpus of ₹ 8,000 crore over 3 years. Initially, the Fund will start with a corpus of ₹ 2,000 crore.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries]</p>	<p>i) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF), for an amount of ₹ 10,881 crore.</p> <p>ii) Operational Guidelines of DIDF have been approved by Agriculture Ministry.</p> <p>iii) Memorandum of Agreement amongst Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has been signed on 14.12.2017 for implementation of DIDF.</p>
12.	33	<p>I. RURAL POPULATION</p> <p>Over ₹ 3 lakh crore are spent in rural areas every year, if we add up all the programmes meant for rural poor from the Central Budget, State Budgets, Bank linkage for self-help groups, etc. With a clear focus on improving accountability, outcomes and convergence, we will undertake a Mission Antyodaya to bring one crore households out of poverty and to make 50,000 gram panchayats poverty free by 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji. We will utilise the existing resources more effectively along with annual increases. This mission will work with a focused micro plan for sustainable livelihood for every deprived household. A composite index for poverty free gram panchayats would be developed to monitor the progress from the baseline.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department:</p>	<p>Mission Antyodaya is a State led initiative demonstrating convergence to transform rural areas.</p> <p>States have identified 50,000 GPs under Mission Antyodaya and have uploaded the Gram Panchayat data on Mission Antyodaya web portal.</p> <p>Ranking of Gram Panchayats as per baseline data has been done.</p> <p>Framework for implementation under Mission Antyodaya has been published and discussed in detail with the State representatives at the Performance Review Meeting dated 16th -17th November, 2017.</p> <p>Gap analysis has been done to monitor progress. States have been requested to align planning of interventions under Mission Antyodaya with the ensuing financial year planning.</p> <p>Department of Rural Development has also communicated to the appropriate line Ministries for active engagement for achieving convergence.</p>

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS, 2017-18

Sl. No.	Para No.	Text of Announcement(s)	Status of implementation
		[Ministry of Rural Development]	
13.	34	<p>Our Government has made a conscious effort to reorient MGNREGA to support our resolve to double farmers' income. While providing at least 100 days employment to every rural household, MGNREGA should create productive assets to improve farm productivity and incomes. The target of 5 lakh farm ponds and 10 lakh compost pits announced in the last Budget from MGNREGA funds will be fully achieved. In fact, against 5 lakh farm ponds, it is expected that about 10 lakh farm ponds would be completed by March 2017. During 2017-18, another 5 lakh farm ponds will be taken up. This single measure will contribute greatly to drought proofing of gram panchayats.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Rural Development]</p>	<p>As against a target of 5 lakh farm ponds for 2017-18, 3.91 lakh farm ponds have been completed as of 15.1.2018. MGNREGA has made strategic shift towards reorienting MGNREGA for creation of productive assets to help farmers increase their income.</p> <p>Over 22 lakh Natural Resource Management (NRM) related works have been undertaken benefitting nearly 47.10 lakh hectares. This contributed to improvement in farm productivity and income.</p> <p>Expenditure on NRM works had been 57% of the total expenditure in MWC (Mission Water Conservation) blocks for FY 2017-18.</p>
14.	36	<p>Honourable Members would be happy to note that the budget provision of ₹38,500 crore under MGNREGA in 2016-17 has been increased to ₹48,000 crore in 2017-18. This is the highest ever allocation for MGNREGA. The initiative to geo-tag all MGNREGA assets and putting them in public domain has established greater transparency. We are also using space technology in a big way to plan MGNREGA works.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Rural Development]</p>	<p>With the application of space technology, geo-tagging of all the MGNREGA assets (completed works) was initiated in FY 2016-17.</p> <p>As on 15.01.2018, 3.15 crore assets out of 3.29 crore completed works have been geo tagged.</p> <p>The Department of RD has also initiated Geo MGNREGA Phase-II in 32 districts of the country on 01.09.2017. As on 15.01.2018, 24.3 lakh workers have been geo-tagged.</p> <p>Under Geo MGNREGA Phase-II, geo tagging of works will be done in three stages (i) before the start of the work, (ii) during the work and (iii) on completion of the work.</p>
15.	37	<p>The <i>Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana</i> (PMGSY) is now being implemented as never before. The pace of construction of PMGSY roads has accelerated to reach 133 km roads per day in 2016-17, as against an average of 73 km during the period 2011-2014. We have also taken up the task of connecting habitations with more than 100 persons in left wing extremism affected Blocks. We have committed to complete the current target under PMGSY by 2019. I have provided a sum of ₹ 19,000 crore in 2017-18 for this scheme. Together with the contribution of States, an amount of ₹ 27,000 crore will be spent on PMGSY in 2017-18</p>	<p>Out of total 1,78,184 eligible habitations, 1,64,547 habitations have been sanctioned (92.34 %), till 30.11.2017.</p> <p>A total of 1,45,158 eligible unconnected habitations have been connected (including 14,620 eligible habitations connected by States) bringing the total habitations connected to 82%.</p> <p>PMGSY has also approved the proposals for nearly all the remaining eligible habitations to be connected and it is expected to attain almost 100% connectivity by March, 2019.</p> <p>Road length of over 25,000 km has been constructed by covering 6400 habitations as on 15.01.2018.</p> <p>Habitations in LWE affected blocks have also been undertaken in 9 States with a target of constructing 5,382 km. This project has been initiated from 2016-17 and is expected to be completed by March, 2020.</p>

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		[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Rural Development]	
16.	38	We propose to complete 1 crore houses by 2019 for the houseless and those living in kutcha houses. I have stepped up the allocation for Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin from ₹ 15,000 crore in BE 2016-17 to ₹ 23,000 crore in 2017-18. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Rural Development]	Under PMAY-G, there is target to construct 1 crore houses by March, 2019. Against a target of constructing 1 crore houses, 51 lakh houses to be completed by March, 2018 and another 51 lakh houses by March, 2019. As of 26.12.2017, 15.57 lakh rural houses completed in 2017-18. 2.60 crore households identified as eligible beneficiaries based on SECC, 2011. A total of 59.11 lakh houses sanctioned while 54.21 lakh beneficiaries released 1st instalment and 35.65 lakh beneficiaries released 2nd instalment. So far, 12.60 lakh houses have been constructed under PMAY-G. Provisional target of 19,53,208 houses for FY 2018-19 released to 7 better performing states during 2017-18 itself, for advance planning. Out of total budgetary allocation of ₹ 23,000 crore in FY 2017-18, so far, an amount of ₹ 20,241.24 crore has been released to the States/UTs.
17.	39	We are well on our way to achieving 100% village electrification by 1 st May 2018. An increased allocation of ₹ 4,814 crore has been proposed under the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana in 2017-18. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Power]	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana is an existing ongoing approved scheme of Ministry of Power. The continuation of the Scheme beyond 12 th Plan will be obtained as per normal instructions applicable for continuation of any other Scheme.
18.	40	I have also proposed to increase the allocations for Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission for promotion of skill development and livelihood opportunities for people in rural areas to ₹4,500 in 2017-18. The allocation for Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and credit support schemes has been increased more than 3 times. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Rural Development]	The allocated funds will be utilized over a period of time as per the prescribed guidelines of DAY-NRLM. Under the programme, stress has been laid on strengthening the community institutions, capitalizing them, their credit linkage with banks and livelihoods support. Several initiatives have been undertaken to develop value chain interventions, farm and non-farm market linkage initiatives, development of clusters for sustainable agriculture practices, promotion of rural enterprises, setting up of 'Rural Haats' to market SHG products and agriculture produce etc. To provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport facilities in remote rural villages, 'Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)' has been launched.
19.	41	Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) has made tremendous progress in promoting safe sanitation and ending open defecation. Sanitation coverage in rural India has gone up from 42% in October 2014 to about 60%. Open Defecation Free villages are now being given priority for piped water supply. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]	Sanitation Coverage increased to 75.43 % as on 01.01.2018. 284 Districts, 2,586 Blocks, 1,32,038 GPs and 3,02,445 Villages have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) as on 01.01.2018. In addition, 9 States/UTs namely, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Gujarat, Chandigarh, Arunachal Pradesh and Daman and Diu have also been declared ODF. Out of 8,02,054 habitations in Open Defecation Free (ODF) declared villages, 4,22,305 habitations have been provided Piped Water Supply Schemes (PWSS) up to 01.01.2018.

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Sl. No.	Para No.	Text of Announcement(s)	Status of implementation
20.	42	We propose to provide safe drinking water to over 28,000 arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in the next four years. This will be a sub mission of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]	Under National Water Quality Sub-Mission of NRDWP, an amount of ₹ 814.13 crore was released to 15 States to cover 4918 Arsenic/Fluoride affected habitations through 588 ongoing schemes. A second time release for ongoing schemes with more than 25% habitations either Arsenic or Fluoride affected was considered by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation and as of 01.01.2018, ₹ 307.86 crore was released to State Govt. of West Bengal to be utilized in 64 ongoing schemes. For new schemes a total of ₹ 692.13 crore was released to various states, namely Telangana (₹ 440.51 crore), Bihar (₹ 80.37 crore), Jharkhand (₹ 7.25 crore), Haryana (₹ 9.63 crore) and West Bengal (₹ 154.37 crore). As on Dec 19 th , 2017 a total of ₹ 1,814.13 crore was released under the Sub-Mission.
21.	43	For imparting new skills to the people in the rural areas, mason training will be provided to 5 lakh persons by 2022, with an immediate target of training at least 20,000 persons by 2017-18. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Rural Development]	5,107 candidates have been trained, and 1057 candidates are undergoing Rural Mason Training as on 18.12.2017. Out of the trained candidates, 3,689 persons have been assessed and 3,090 have been certified as Rural Masons by NSDC. The pace is being further speeded up.
22.	44	Panchayati Raj institutions still lack human resources for implementing development programmes. A programme of "human resource reforms for results" will be launched during 2017-18 for this purpose. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Rural Development]	A Committee under the Chairmanship of the former Finance Secretary was constituted on "Performance Based Payment for Better Outcomes in Rural Development Programmes". The Committee has the mandate to look into the human resources available at GP, IP and DP and to suggest ways and means by which these human resources could be augmented and organized for better delivery of programmes. The Committee has submitted its report favouring performance based payments. The reforms proposed by the Committee <i>prima facie</i> look feasible and are being analysed for initiating consultation with States/UTs.
23.	48	We have proposed to introduce a system of measuring annual learning outcomes in our schools. Emphasis will be given on science education and flexibility in curriculum to promote creativity through local innovative content. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of School Education & Literacy]	Learning Outcomes for each class in Languages (Hindi, English and Urdu), Mathematics, Environmental Studies, Science and Social Science up to the Elementary stage have been finalized. These have been included in the Central Rules framed. 21 States and UTs have incorporated the learning outcomes in their State rules while the remaining States have initiated the process. It is expected that this will be completed by March, 2018. National Achievement Survey (NAS) in the year 2017-18 was conducted on November 13, 2017. Around 22 lakh students of Classes 3, 5 and 8 from around 1,10,000 schools across 700 districts of India were assessed. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), special emphasis has been given on science education especially in upper primary classes. An allocation of ₹ 25 lakh per district has been made under SSA for 2017-18 for promotion of Science Education at elementary level.
24.	49	III. YOUTH An Innovation Fund for Secondary Education will be created to encourage local innovation for	"Innovation Fund" has been earmarked under the existing budget of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme for the current financial year 2017-18.

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Sl. No.	Para No.	Text of Announcement(s)	Status of implementation
		ensuring universal access, gender parity and quality improvement. This will include ICT enabled learning transformation. The focus will be on 3479 educationally backward blocks. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of School Education & Literacy]	The Standing Finance Committee has appraised the proposal for creation of Innovation Fund. The guidelines of Innovation Fund for Secondary Education have been circulated to all states/UTs. So far, proposal from the 22 states have been approved under the Innovation Fund with an outlay of ₹ 70 crore, for the educationally backward blocks of the country.
25.	50	In higher education, we will undertake reforms in the UGC. Good quality institutions would be enabled to have greater administrative and academic autonomy. Colleges will be identified based on accreditation and ranking, and given autonomous status. A revised framework will be put in place for outcome based accreditation and credit based programmes. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Higher Education]	UGC Regulations being revisited and graded into three categories based on their NAAC grades. Academic and administrative autonomy - new framework/guidelines approved by UGC have been put in public domain/uploaded. Draft framework for revised accreditation is under consultation with the stakeholders.
26.	51	We propose to leverage information technology and launch SWAYAM platform with at least 350 online courses. This would enable students to virtually attend the courses taught by the best faculty; access high quality reading resources; participate in discussion forums; take tests and earn academic grades. Access to SWAYAM would be widened by linkage with DTH channels, dedicated to education. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Higher Education]	Ministry of Human Resource Development has developed 'Massive On line Open Courses (MOOCs)' and detailed guidelines thereon. At present, about 593 online courses are listed on SWAYAM and about 260 MOOCs have been delivered. For linking of SWAYAM with DTH Channels and its expansion, two transponders of GSAT-15 and 32 DTH Educational TV Channels have been operationalized.
27.	52	We propose to establish a National Testing Agency as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organisation to conduct all entrance examinations for higher education institutions. This would free CBSE, AICTE and other premier institutions from these administrative responsibilities so that they can focus more on academics. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Higher Education]	The Cabinet has approved the proposal for setting up of National Testing Agency (NTA). The NTA would initially conduct those entrance examinations which are currently being conducted by the CBSE. Other examinations will be taken up gradually after NTA is fully geared up. The process for registration of the Society, appointment of DG, Chairperson, etc. is underway.
28.	54	<i>Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras</i> (PMKK) have already been promoted in more than 60 districts. We now propose to extend these <i>Kendras</i> to more than 600 districts across the country. 100 India International Skills Centres will be established across the country. These Centres would offer advanced training and also courses in foreign languages. This	<i>Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra</i> (PMKK): As on 24.11.2017, 527 PMKKs have been allocated to 27 States covering 484 districts and 406 Parliamentary Constituencies. <i>India International Skill Centre</i> (IISC): 14 IISCs are already operational, 7 more IISCs have been shortlisted and will be operationalized soon. Current IISC guidelines are being revised to make them market driven. Phase 1 and 2 will be launched once the revised guidelines are finalized.

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		will help those of our youth who seek job opportunities outside the country. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship]	
29.	55	In 2017-18, we also propose to launch the Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion programme (SANKALP) at a cost of ₹ 4,000 crore. SANKALP will provide market relevant training to 3.5 crore youth. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship]	Cabinet approval has been obtained for SANKALP Scheme. SANKALP has been approved by the World Bank. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MSDE has been constituted. Action for the appointment of Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Firm and Independent Verification Agency (IVA) is under process.
30.	56	The next phase of Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) will also be launched in 2017-18 at a cost of ₹ 2,200 crore. STRIVE will focus on improving the quality and market relevance of vocational training provided in ITIs and strengthen the apprenticeship programmes through industry cluster approach. [Nodal Ministry/Department: M/o Skill Development and Entrepreneurship]	Expenditure Finance Committee has apprised the STRIVE Scheme and the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved it. Financing Agreement to be signed between GoI and the World Bank. An amount of ₹ 50 crore is available for FY 2017-18 for the Scheme.
31.	57	A special scheme for creating employment in the textile sector has already been launched. A similar scheme will be implemented for the leather and footwear industries. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion]	The Government has approved a special package for employment generation in the leather and footwear sector on 15.12.2017, which has the potential to generate 3.24 lakh jobs in three years and assist in the formalization of 2 lakh jobs. The package involves implementation of central scheme 'Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme', with an expenditure of ₹ 2,600 crore during 2017-18 to 2019-20.
32.	58	Tourism is a big employment generator and has a multiplier impact on the economy. Five Special Tourism Zones, anchored on SPVs, will be set up in partnership with the States. Incredible India 2.0 Campaign will be launched across the world. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Tourism]	The guidelines for setting up of Five Special Tourism Zones in the country have been prepared. Stakeholder Consultations with Central Ministries, State Governments/UTs and Private Sector on the guidelines and scheme were held in September 2017. Ministry is in the process of finalization of EFC note for the scheme. Incredible India Campaign launched and is being released on television, print media and digital media.
33.	60	IV. THE POOR AND THE UNDERPRIVILEGED (a) <i>Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas</i> begins with the girl child and women. <i>Mahila Shakti Kendra</i> will be set up at village level with an allocation of ₹ 500 crore in 14 lakh ICDS <i>Anganwadi</i> Centres. This will provide one stop convergent support services for	(a) Government of India has approved a new scheme namely, Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) for implementation during 2017-18 and up to 2019-20 to empower rural women. MSK Block level initiatives will involve community service through College Student Volunteers in 115 most backward districts of the country. Student volunteers will play a role in awareness generation. During 2017-18, 400 Blocks in 50 most backward districts (8 Blocks per district) are to be covered under block level initiative. District Level Centre for Women (DLCW) will also be established

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		<p>empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition.</p> <p>(b) A nationwide scheme for financial assistance to pregnant women has already been announced by Honourable Prime Minister on 31st December, 2016. Under this scheme, ₹ 6,000 each will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of pregnant women who undergo institutional delivery and vaccinate their children.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Women & Child Development]</p>	<p>for 640 districts in a phased manner. During the 2017-18, 220 DLCWs will be set up. Support will also be provided through domain based experts at the national level and technical assistance through State Resources Centres for Women (SRCWs) at the State level.</p> <p>(b) Government has approved PAN-India implementation of Maternity Benefit Scheme. Administrative approval has been conveyed to States/ UTs on 19.5.2017. The guidelines have been issued and funds released in Escrow accounts of all States/ UTs. The programme has been named as "Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana". Funds to beneficiaries are being disbursed through DBT mode.</p>
34.	62	<p>We propose to facilitate higher investment in affordable housing. Affordable housing will now be given infrastructure status, which will enable these projects to avail the associated benefits.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Economic Affairs]</p>	<p>Affordable housing has been given infrastructure status vide Gazette Notification dated 30th March, 2017.</p>
35.	63	<p>The National Housing Bank will refinance individual housing loans of about ₹ 20,000 crore in 2017-18. Thanks to the surplus liquidity created by demonetisation, the Banks have already started reducing their lending rates, including those for housing. In addition, interest subvention for housing loans has also been announced by the Honourable Prime Minister.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Financial Services]</p>	<p>The Operational Guidelines for the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for MIG have already been released by the Government of India, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.</p>
36.	64	<p>Poverty is usually associated with poor health. It is the poor who suffer the maximum from various chronic diseases. Government has therefore prepared an action plan to eliminate Kala-Azar and Filariasis by 2017, Leprosy by 2018 and Measles by 2020. Elimination of tuberculosis by 2025 is also targeted. Similarly, action plan has been prepared to reduce IMR from 39 in 2014 to 28 by 2019 and MMR from 167 in 2011-13 to 100 by 2018-2020. 1.5 lakh Health Sub Centres will be transformed into Health and Wellness Centres.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department:</p>	<p>Action to eliminate Kala-Azar, Filariasis, Leprosy, Measles and TB is being taken under various on-going health programmes. Five (5) States (out of 21 States) and 96 Districts (out of 256 Districts) have stopped Mass Drug Administration (MDA) after achieving elimination status. The steps taken to monitor MDA activities in other states/districts include organizing Training of Trainers, establishment of Call Centre and organizing workshops. 2nd meeting of India Expert Advisory Group on measles & rubella (IEAG-MR) held on 09-10, November 2017.</p> <p>Existing programmes on Mission Indradhanush, Expansion of Rotavirus Vaccine, Measles-Rubella Campaign have been strengthened. Regional and National Workshops have been organized for strengthening ante-natal care with emphasis on tracking High Risk Pregnancies, implementation of Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight, implementation of Mission</p>

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		Ministry of Health & Family Welfare]	Parivar Vikas in 146 high fertility districts and introduction of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine. In 2017-18, about 4000 Sub-Centres / PHCs are proposed to be strengthened as Health & Wellness Centres within the available resources under the NHM. So far, approval has been issued to States for 3871 Health & Wellness Centres.
37.	65	We need to ensure adequate availability of specialist doctors to strengthen Secondary and Tertiary levels of health care. We have therefore decided to take steps to create additional 5,000 Post Graduate seats per annum. In addition, steps will be taken to roll out DNB courses in big District Hospitals; strengthen PG teaching in select ESI and Municipal Corporation Hospitals; and encourage reputed Private Hospitals to start DNB courses. We will work with the State Governments to take these tasks forward. The Government is committed to take necessary steps for structural transformation of the Regulatory framework of Medical Education and Practice in India. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare]	Around 5,800 PG seats have been created against target of 5,000 PG seats. National Board of Examinations (NBE) has been asked to take steps to roll out DNB courses in big District Hospitals and reputed Private Hospitals. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has circulated the guidelines to the State Governments on setting up of medical colleges and opening of new or higher courses of study / setting up of PGMER by Municipal Corporations. Union Cabinet has approved the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill on 15.12.2017.
38.	66	Two new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences will be set up in the States of Jharkhand and Gujarat. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare]	For setting up All India Institutes of Medical Sciences at Jharkhand, site at Deoghar has been finalized, executing agency appointed and DPR approved. Pre-investment activities are in progress. In Gujarat, four sites have been offered by the State Government, which have been inspected by the Central Team and their recommendations are under submission for approval.
39.	67	We propose to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to ensure availability of drugs at reasonable prices and promote use of generic medicines. New rules for regulating medical devices will also be formulated. These rules will be internationally harmonised and attract investment into this sector. This will reduce the cost of such devices. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare]	The draft rules for amendment in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 were notified on 30.03.2017 inviting suggestions from stakeholders. Suggestions were considered and stakeholders meeting held. Draft final notification is under preparation. The Medical Device Rules, 2017 have been notified.
40.	68	We are keen on fostering a conducive labour environment wherein labour rights are protected and harmonious labour relations lead	The Code of Wages Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 10.08.2017 and the Bill has been referred to Standing Committee on Labour.

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		to higher productivity. Legislative reforms will be undertaken to simplify, rationalise and amalgamate the existing labour laws into 4 Codes on (i) wages; (ii) industrial relations; (iii) social security and welfare; and (iv) safety and working conditions. The Model Shops and Establishment Bill 2016 has been circulated to all States for consideration and adoption. This would open up additional avenues for employment of women. The amendment made to the Payment of Wages Act, is another initiative of our Government for the benefit of the labour and ease of doing business. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Labour]	Preliminary draft of the Code on Social Security & Welfare has been placed on the website of the Ministry of Labour & Employment on 16.03.2017, inviting comments from the stakeholders/public. Comments received from the stakeholders/Public are being examined. It is at pre-legislative consultative stage. With regard to Code on Industrial Relations, an informal Committee of Ministers has examined the Bill and desired further deliberation. A Tripartite Meeting was held on 04.10.2017 with representatives of Central Trade Unions, Employers' Association and State/UTs under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Labour & Employment. The Code on Industrial Relations is at pre-legislative consultative stage. Draft Code on occupational safety, Health & Working conditions is also at pre-legislative consultative stage.
41.	69	Our Government is giving special importance to implementation of the schemes for welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities. The allocation for the welfare of Scheduled Castes has been stepped up from ₹38,833 crore in BE 2016-17 to ₹ 52,393 crore in 2017-18, representing an increase of about 35%. The allocation for Scheduled Tribes has been increased to ₹31,920 crore and for Minority Affairs to ₹4,195 crore. The Government will introduce outcome based monitoring of expenditure in these sectors by the NITI Aayog. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, NITI Aayog, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs]	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry to monitor the allocation for welfare of Scheduled Castes. A monitoring framework through dashboard has been developed and monitoring is being done through nodal officers appointed by various Ministries. Ministry of Minority Affairs: An outcome based monitoring of expenditure proposals in respect of Ministry of Minority Affairs has been forwarded to NITI Aayog on 8.12.2017. Based on feedback received from NITI Aayog, a revised framework is under submission to NITI Aayog. Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) An online monitoring system has been put in place with web address https://stcmis.gov.in/ for monitoring of allocations for welfare of STs under the Scheme, monitoring of expenditure vis-à-vis allocations, monitoring of physical performance and outcome monitoring. NITI Aayog has designed an online dashboard to monitor the output-outcome budget 2017-18.
42.	70	For senior citizens, <i>Aadhar</i> based Smart Cards containing their health details will be introduced. A beginning will be made through a pilot in 15 districts during 2017-18. The LIC will implement a scheme for senior citizens to provide assured pension, with a guaranteed return of 8% per annum for 10 years. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment]	Department of Financial Services: Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) has since been soft launched by LIC on 4 th May, 2017. LIC has informed that necessary circulars and instructions in this regard have been issued by it. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Based on the inputs to be received from UIDAI, NIC and other participants, SFC note is to be prepared. Formulation of Scheme is under consideration.
43.	72	Railways, roads and rivers are the	With the enactment of the National Waterways Act, 2016, the

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		lifeline of our country. I feel privileged to present the first combined Budget of independent India that includes the Railways also. We are now in a position to synergise the investments in railways, roads, waterways and civil aviation. For 2017-18, the total capital and development expenditure of Railways has been pegged at ₹ 1,31,000 crore. This includes ₹55,000 crore provided by the Government. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Railways]	total number of national waterways has become 111. This has paved the way for better regulation and development of the national waterways in the country. In order to develop national waterways, sustainable source of funding is necessary since budgetary support and funds from multilateral institutions are inadequate. The Government has taken initiatives to earmark 2.5 % of Central Road Fund (CRF) for development of National Waterways by reducing the share of NH cess from 41.5% to 39 %. The CRF (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed in Lok Sabha on 19.12.2017. Bill is pending for consideration in Rajya Sabha.
44.	74	For passenger safety, a <i>Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh</i> will be created with a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore over a period of 5 years. Besides seed capital from the Government, the Railways will arrange the balance resources from their own revenues and other sources. Government will lay down clear cut guidelines and timeline for implementing various safety works to be funded from this <i>Kosh</i> . Unmanned level crossings on Broad Gauge lines will be eliminated by 2020. Expert international assistance will be harnessed to improve safety preparedness and maintenance practices. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Railways]	Safety fund i.e. Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) has been set up for funding various safety works over a period of 5 years. For 2017-18, ₹ 20,000 crore has been provided for. Funds from the Kosh will be utilized to finance various on-going and new works under Capital-heads Traffic Facilities – Yard Remodeling & Others, Rolling Stock, Road Safety Works-Level Crossing, Road Safety Works-Road Over/Under Bridges, Track Renewals, Bridge Works, Signaling and Telecommunication Works, Other Electrical Works, Traction Distribution Works, Machinery & Plant, Workshops including Production Units and Training/HRD. Ministry of Finance has conveyed guidelines on utilisation of RRSK. The work of elimination of Unmanned Level crossings by 2020 is progressing as per schedule.
45.	75	In the next 3 years, the throughput is proposed to be enhanced by 10%. This will be done through modernisation and upgradation of identified corridors. Railway lines of 3,500 km will be commissioned in 2017-18, as against 2,800 km in 2016-17. Steps will be taken to launch dedicated trains for tourism and pilgrimage. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Railways]	Enhancement of throughput: In the first phase, South Eastern Railway, South East Central Railway and East Coast Railway have been identified for 25T axle load running. Long haul trains will run across congested sections to increase throughput. 3500 km of track will be constructed in 2017-18 to enhance capacity. Up to November 2017, 973.57 km of Railway lines have been opened for passenger services. Launching of dedicated trains for tourism & pilgrimage: Indian Railways are already operating various dedicated tourist trains in association with IRCTC/ State Tourism Corporations. During the month of November, 2017, 8 trips of Bharat Darshan trains, 1 trip of Aastha Circuit Train, 1 trip of Buddhist Special Train, 19 trips of State Special trains, 5 trips of Maharajas Express Luxury trains and 5 trips of Palace on Wheels have been run as dedicated tourist trains for pilgrims and tourists.
46.	77	A beginning has been made with regard to station redevelopment. At least 25 stations are expected to be awarded during 2017-18 for station redevelopment. 500 stations will be made differently	Redevelopment of Habibganj and Gandhinagar stations has started. At present, Ministry of Railways is formulating revised schemes for station redevelopment on fast track. More stations will be taken up for redevelopment once the revised strategy for redevelopment of stations is finalized. Work on Differently abled friendly stations will be completed in

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		abled friendly by providing lifts and escalators. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Railways]	next 5 years depending on availability of funds. So far 430 escalators at 167 stations and 279 lifts at 122 stations have been provided. Further, work is in progress for about 346 escalators at 132 stations and 357 lifts at 112 stations. In addition, proposals to install lifts in about 500 stations are under consideration.
47.	78	It is proposed to feed about 7,000 stations with solar power in the medium term. A beginning has already been made in 300 stations. Works will be taken up for 2,000 railway stations as part of 1000 MW solar mission. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Railways, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy]	28.75 Mega Watt (MW) solar roof top capacity has been installed on 350 stations including major stations like Varanasi, Katra, New Delhi, Old Delhi, Jaipur, Secunderabad and Kolkata. Order has been placed for 37 MW solar roof top capacity by Zonal Railways/PUs (covering 250 stations). Another 93 MW solar capacity has been finalized (covering 950 stations). Further, work is under progress at 200 stations of D & E category. Overall planning/execution has already been made for 2750 stations and other buildings. Balance stations (4250) are being planned in a phased manner by 2020-21.
48.	79	Our focus is on Swachh rail. SMS based <i>Clean My Coach Service</i> has been started. It is now proposed to introduce 'Coach Mitra' facility, a single window interface, to register all coach related complaints and requirements. By 2019, all coaches of Indian Railways will be fitted with bio toilets. Pilot plants for environment friendly disposal of solid waste and conversion of biodegradable waste to energy are being set up at New Delhi and Jaipur railway stations. Five more such solid waste management plants are now being taken up. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Railways]	The facility shall be extended to all On-board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) trains (1000) in 2017-18. 'Coach Mitra' facility has already been extended to 670 trains over 13 Zonal Railways. Target for 2017-18 is installation of 40,000 bio-toilets. All BG coaches will be fitted with bio-toilets by 2019. Earnest efforts are being made to complete the work by December, 2018. In the month of November 2017, 5417 bio-toilets have been installed in coaches. On cumulative basis, 33856 bio-toilets have been installed. Pilot plant at Jaipur Railway Station has been installed. The pilot plant at New Delhi Railway Station is expected to be installed by April, 2018. Five solid waste management plants shall be installed during the financial year 2017-18 in addition to the two pilot plants at Jaipur and New Delhi.
49.	80	Today Indian Railways face stiff competition from other modes of transportation which are dominated by the private sector. Transformative measures have to be undertaken to make Indian Railways competitive to retain their position of pre-eminence. The following steps will therefore be taken : (i) Railways will implement end to end integrated transport solutions for select commodities through partnership with logistics players, who would provide both front and back end connectivity. Rolling stocks and practices will be customised to transport perishable goods, especially	Railway Board have identified a list of 20 goods sheds for up gradation to freight terminals with end-to-end logistics solutions through PPP initiative. Business plan for each of the goods sheds is under preparation. Draft policy framework for goods sheds upgradation has been prepared and is under finalization. Once the draft policy is finalised, preparation of bid document through a hired Transaction Manager will be taken up. Target for preparation of bid document is March, 2018. (i): Total number of refrigerated parcel vans (VPRs) in IR is 11. Three such VPRs have recently been handed over to WR to cater to demand from NDDB for milk products. One such VPR is also under use by SWR for transporting hatchery products. Transportation of perishable goods like Meat, Vegetables etc., using container flats (BLC/BLCN) loaded with refrigerator containers (REEFER) have also been considered. For transportation of less than 20 REEFER containers the cost of transportation of the DG set and its operation and maintenance cost together make the transportation, financially unviable. In order to overcome this challenge, trial for

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		<p>agricultural products.</p> <p>(ii) Railways will offer competitive ticket booking facility to the public at large. Service charge on e-tickets booked through IRCTC has been withdrawn. Cashless reservations have gone up from 58% to 68%.</p> <p>(iii) As part of accounting reforms, accrual based financial statements will be rolled out by March 2019.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Railways]</p>	<p>transportation of less number of containers (20) in one rake using clip-on-Gen sets (Gen sets attached to each container) is underway.</p> <p>(ii) Traditionally, purchase of ticket/ booking by cash at the booking counters was provided. Booking of e-tickets through IRCTC website now accounts for about 69% of revenue from the total reserved tickets.</p> <p>Facility of booking tickets through outside agencies, viz. PRS in Post Offices, some offices of State Governments in far-flung areas has also been provided. However, these facilities have very low patronage. Facilities like e-ticketing and booking of tickets through mobile phone has wider acceptance. The share of electronic tickets to total tickets is rising rapidly and Railways is making technological changes to keep pace with the demand. In this context, following further initiatives have been taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Booking of ticket at the booking counters through digital modes of payment viz. Debit/Credit Cards and also UPI/BHIM for which pilot project has commenced on 1st December, 2017. 2. Various modes of digital payment have been provided for booking of e-tickets at the IRCTC website. 3. Providing facility of reserved tickets through Integrated Mobile App (Rail Sarathi) for which all modes of digital payment are available. 4. Mobile App has been provided for booking of paperless unreserved tickets on all suburban sections and on non-suburban sections of Delhi-Palwal and Delhi-Ghaziabad sections of Northern Railway. Additionally, booking of OTP based unreserved tickets at all other locations of IR have been provided. Additional modes of digital payment have also been provided on the Mobile App to include debit/credit cards, e-wallets, etc. <p>(iii): Accrual Accounting is being rolled out on all Indian Railways in association with Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in addition to existing Cash Based FS prescribed under Government Accounting Rules.</p>
50.	82	<p>Metro rail is emerging as an important mode of urban transportation. A new Metro Rail Policy will be announced with focus on innovative models of implementation and financing, as well as standardisation and indigenisation of hardware and software. This will open up new job opportunities for our youth.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs]</p>	<p>Government has approved the new Metro Rail Policy on 18.08.2017. The new policy has been placed on the website of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.</p>
51.	83	<p>A new Metro Rail Act will be enacted by rationalising the existing laws. This will facilitate greater private participation and investment in</p>	<p>The Draft Cabinet Note on Metro Rail (Construction, Operation and Maintenance) Bill is under preparation in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice.</p>

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		<p>construction and operation.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs]</p>																
52.	84	<p>In the road sector, I have stepped up the Budget allocation for highways from ₹ 57,976 crore in BE 2016-17 to ₹ 64,900 crore in 2017-18. 2,000 kms of coastal connectivity roads have been identified for construction and development. This will facilitate better connectivity with ports and remote villages. The total length of roads, including those under PMGSY, built from 2014-15 till the current year is about 1,40,000 kms which is significantly higher than previous three years.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Road Transport & Highways]</p>	<p>Government has achieved significant enhancement in award and completion of the National Highway (NH) projects since 2014-15 compared to previous three years. The details are as under:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Award (km)</th> <th>Construction(km)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total 2011-14</td> <td>15,330</td> <td>15,005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total 2014-17</td> <td>34,018</td> <td>18,702</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Target 2017-18</td> <td>25,000</td> <td>15,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Achievement 2017-18 (Up to Nov., 2017)</td> <td>2,917</td> <td>4,942</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Against the BE 2017-18 outlay of ₹ 64,900 crore, ₹ 38,485 crore (59.3%) was spent up to November, 2017. In addition, NHAI has raised an IEBR of ₹ 27,246 crore up to November, 2017.</p>	Year	Award (km)	Construction(km)	Total 2011-14	15,330	15,005	Total 2014-17	34,018	18,702	Target 2017-18	25,000	15,000	Achievement 2017-18 (Up to Nov., 2017)	2,917	4,942
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53.	85	<p>An effective multi modal logistics and transport sector will make our economy more competitive. A specific programme for development of multi-modal logistics parks, together with multi modal transport facilities, will be drawn up and implemented.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways]</p>	<p>The Ministry of Commerce has been entrusted with the responsibility for finalizing the logistics policy and ensuring inter-ministerial coordination for Multi Modal Logistic Parks (MMLPs). Infrastructure Status has been bestowed on Logistics on 21.11.2017.</p> <p>The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has prepared a Draft policy on Development on MMLP. Model Bid Documents have been finalized and shared with State Governments and Department of Commerce.</p> <p>MoRTH, Railways and IWAI will take up trunk Infrastructure to make proposed site(s) of MMLP viable. State Governments would provide land and form SPVs for operation and maintenance of the developed MMLPs.</p>															
54.	86	<p>(i) Select airports in Tier 2 cities will be taken up for operation and maintenance in the PPP mode.</p> <p>(ii) Airport Authority of India Act will be amended to enable effective monetisation of land assets. The resources, so raised, will be utilised for airport upgradation.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Civil Aviation]</p>	<p>Airport Authority of India (AAI) has initiated the process for the operation and maintenance of Ahmedabad and Jaipur airports on PPP mode. The RFP has been issued, Stakeholders Conference Call organized and Pre-Bid Conference held. The last date for submission of Bids has been extended up to 30th January, 2018.</p> <p>Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) had taken steps for amending the provisions of Airport Authority of India Act, 1994 and Cabinet Note was sent for obtaining Cabinet's approval. The Cabinet Note for amending AAI Act was withdrawn consequent to orders passed by the High Court of Delhi. The SLP filed in the Supreme Court has been dismissed. MoCA in consultation with Department of Legal Affairs is examining the further course of action to be taken in the matter.</p>															
55.	89	<p>Under the BharatNet Project, OFC has been laid in 1,55,000 km. I have stepped up the allocation for BharatNet Project to ₹ 10,000 crore in 2017-18. By the end of 2017-18, high speed broadband connectivity</p>	<p>As on 17.12.2017, 2,50,197 km of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid catering to 1,06,585 Gram Panchayats.</p>															

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Sl. No.	Para No.	Text of Announcement(s)	Status of implementation
		<p>on optical fibre will be available in more than 1,50,000 <i>Gram panchayats</i>, with wi-fi hot spots and access to digital services at low tariffs. A DigiGaon initiative will be launched to provide tele-medicine education and skills through digital technology.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Telecommunications]</p>	
56.	90	<p>For strengthening our Energy sector, Government has decided to set up Strategic Crude Oil Reserves. In the first phase, 3 such Reserves facilities have been set up. Now in the second phase, it is proposed to set up caverns at 2 more locations, namely, Chandikhole in Odisha and Bikaner in Rajasthan. This will take our strategic reserve capacity to 15.33 MMT.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas]</p>	<p>Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has finalised the proposal for setting up Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) facility at Chandikhole (4 MMT) and Padur (2.5 MMT) at an estimated cost ₹11,035 crore. The proposal has been sent to Ministry of Finance.</p>
57.	91	<p>In solar energy, we now propose to take up the second phase of Solar Park development for additional 20,000 MW capacity.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy]</p>	<p>Cabinet approved the proposal on 22/02/2017. Sanction and guidelines were issued on 21/03/2017. In principle approval has been given for 05 Solar parks under phase-II of the scheme with aggregate capacity of 2040 MW in Rajasthan (1000 MW), Gujarat (500 MW), Tamil Nadu (500 MW), Mizoram (20 MW) and Manipur (20 MW).</p>
58.	93	<p>We have to focus on our export infrastructure in a competitive world. A new and restructured Central scheme, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) will be launched in 2017-18.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Commerce]</p>	<p>Trade Infrastructure Exports Scheme (TIES) launched by Commerce Minister on 15th March, 2017. Partnership on 50:50 basis envisaged with Central/State Government Agencies, their joint venture or PPP projects. Scheme focuses export infrastructure and support projects e.g., Border Haats, Common Facility Centre, Export Certification Labs etc. First batch of projects approved.</p>
59.	96	<p>VI. FINANCIAL SECTOR</p> <p>Our Government has already undertaken substantive reforms in FDI policy in the last two years. More than 90% of the total FDI inflows are now through the automatic route. The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has successfully implemented e-filing and online processing of FDI applications. We have now reached a stage where FIPB can be phased out. We have therefore decided to abolish the FIPB in 2017-18. A roadmap for the same will be announced in the next few months. In the meantime, further</p>	<p>Pursuant to Cabinet approval on 24.5.2017 to abolish the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, an Office Memorandum was issued by the Department of Economic Affairs on 5th June, 2017 to the eleven Administrative Ministries stating, <i>inter alia</i>, guidelines for handling FDI proposals requiring approval of the Government.</p>

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		liberalisation of FDI policy is under consideration and necessary announcements will be made in due course. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Economic Affairs]	
60.	97	The Commodities markets require further reforms for the benefits of farmers. An expert committee will be constituted to study and promote creation of an operational and legal framework to integrate spot market and derivatives market for commodities trading. e-NAM would be an integral part of such framework. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Economic Affairs]	DEA, MoF vide its O.M. F.No.8/3/2017-CD dated June 13, 2017, has set up an Expert Committee on Integration of Commodity Spot and Derivatives Markets, under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog. The Committee was expected to submit its Report within six months from its constitution. The tenure of the Committee has been extended by two months.
61.	98	The draft bill to curtail the menace of illicit deposit schemes has been placed in the public domain and will be introduced shortly after its finalisation. There is an urgent need to protect the poor and gullible investors from another set of dubious schemes, operated by unscrupulous entities who exploit the regulatory gaps in the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002. We will amend this Act in consultation with various stakeholders, as part of our 'Clean India' agenda. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Financial Services]	Final Cabinet Note has been prepared and is in process for obtaining the approval of the Cabinet.
62.	99	The bill relating to resolution of financial firms will be introduced in the current Budget Session of Parliament. This will contribute to stability and resilience of our financial system. It will also protect the consumers of various financial institutions. Together with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, a resolution mechanism for financial firms will ensure comprehensiveness of the resolution system in our country. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Economic Affairs]	Pursuant to announcement in Budget Speech 2016-17, the Committee set up on 15.3.2016 for framing a Draft Code on Resolution of Financial Firms submitted its Report and a Draft Bill titled Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance (FRDI) Bill has been prepared. Cabinet approved the FRDI Bill for introduction in Parliament in its meeting held on 14.6.2017. Bill introduced in Parliament on 10.08.2017 and referred to a JPC. The time for submission of the Report to the Parliament by the JPC has been extended up to the last day of the Budget Session 2018-19.
63.	100	I had stated in my last Budget speech that a Bill will be introduced to streamline institutional arrangements for resolution of disputes in infrastructure related construction contracts, PPP and public utility contracts. After extensive stakeholders' consultations, we have	The Department of Legal Affairs is presently in the process of amending the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 in consultation with Department of Economic Affairs.

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		decided that the required mechanism would be instituted as part of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996. An amendment Bill will be introduced in this regard. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Legal Affairs]	
64.	101	Cyber security is critical for safeguarding the integrity and stability of our financial sector. A Computer Emergency Response Team for our Financial Sector (CERT-Fin) will be established. This entity will work in close coordination with all financial sector regulators and other stakeholders. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Economic Affairs]	The working Group under the Chairmanship of DG, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (ICERT), MeitY with representation from Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, MeitY, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDBRT), Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (ReBIT) and financial sector regulators, constituted in March, 2017, has submitted its Report. The Report is placed in the Department's website on 30 th June, 2017, seeking public comments. A meeting to finalize the scope of Cert-Fin was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Economic Affairs) on 3/1/2018 with financial sector regulators and Central/State Government agencies. A consultation workshop on the working report on CERT-Fin is also proposed.
65.	102	I have also proposed several other measures in the financial sector which are listed in Annex I . Other measures in the Financial Sector 1. The commodities and securities derivative markets will be further integrated by integrating the participants, brokers, and operational frameworks.	Amendments to relevant provisions in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957(SCRR) and SEBI (Stock Brokers and Sub-Brokers) Regulations, 1992 have been notified. Further, vide SEBI Circular, dated 21.09.2017 integration at broker level has been operationalised. SEBI Board, in its Board Meeting on 29.12.2017, has approved the integration of Commodity Derivatives Market with other segments of securities at the Exchange-level from October 2018 onwards.
		2. The process of registration of financial market intermediaries like mutual funds, brokers, portfolio managers, etc. will be made fully online by SEBI. This will improve ease of doing business.	The online registration facility is made operational by SEBI for Merchant Bankers, Underwriters, Registrar to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents, Debenture Trustees, Bankers to an Issue, Credit Rating Agency, Investment Advisors and Research Analysts.
		3. A common application form for registration, opening of bank and demat accounts, and issue of PAN will be introduced for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). SEBI, RBI and CDBT will jointly put in place the necessary systems and procedures. This will greatly enhance operational flexibility and ease of access to Indian capital markets.	Pursuant to the Budget announcement, SEBI, in consultation with the Custodians of Securities and Depositories has prepared a draft Common Application Form (CAF). DEA is in consultation with DOR for finalising the CAF.

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		4. Steps will be taken for linking of individual demat accounts with Aadhar.	SEBI instructed Depositories to issue a circular to Depositories participants for promoting linking of Aadhaar in April 2017. Thereafter, based on the comments received from MeITY and UIDAI, DEA requested SEBI to issue directions to make quoting of Aadhaar number mandatory for all new and existing individual resident demat accounts. The matter is under consideration of SEBI.
		5. Presently institutions such as banks and insurance companies are categorised as Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) by SEBI. They are eligible for participation in IPOs with specifically earmarked allocations. It is now proposed to allow systemically important NBFCs regulated by RBI and above a certain net worth, to be categorised as QIBs. This will strengthen the IPO market and channelize more investments.	Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) (Second Amendment) Regulations 2017 have been notified on 31st May 2017. The announcement has been implemented.
		6. Listing and trading of Security Receipts issued by a securitisation company or a reconstruction company under the SARFAESI Act will be permitted in SEBI registered stock exchanges. This will enhance capital flows in to the securitisation industry and will particularly be helpful to deal with bank NPAs. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Financial Services, Department of Revenue]	SEBI Board on 28.12.2017 approved the framework for listing of Security Receipts (SRs) issued by Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), under SEBI (Public Offer and Listing of Securities Debt Instruments) Regulations, 2008 (SDI Regulations). A separate chapter regarding framework for listing of SRs will be added to Securities Debt Instruments Regulations.
66.	103	Listing of Public Sector enterprises will foster greater public accountability and unlock the true value of these companies. The Government will put in place a revised mechanism and procedure to ensure time bound listing of identified CPSEs on stock exchanges. The disinvestment policy announced by me in the last budget will continue. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Investment and Public Asset Management]	As announced in the Budget 2017-18, the Government has put in place a mechanism/procedure along-with indicative timelines for listing of CPSEs. The Administrative Ministries/ Departments have been requested to follow the suggested timelines and to complete time-bound listing of identified CPSEs, as per the extant Acts, Rules and Regulations.
67.	104	The shares of Railway PSEs like IRCTC, IRFC and IRCON will be listed in stock exchanges. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Railways, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management]	Ministry of Railways: The High Level Committee meeting to propose quantum of disinvestment for RITES and IRCON was held on 05.01.2018. The issue of Deferred Tax Liability for IRFC is pending with Ministry of Corporate Affairs. IRCTC and RVNL are preparing the Draft Red Herring Prospectus. Department of Investment and Public Asset Management: Intermediaries like Book Running Lead Managers (BRLMs), Legal Advisors, Registrars and Auditors have been appointed. Due diligence by BRLMs and the CPSEs is in progress.
68.	105	We see opportunities to strengthen	CCEA in meeting dated 19 th July, 2017 has given 'in principle'

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		<p>our CPSEs through consolidation, mergers and acquisitions. By these methods, the CPSEs can be integrated across the value chain of an industry. It will give them capacity to bear higher risks, avail economies of scale, take higher investment decisions and create more value for the stakeholders. Possibilities of such restructuring are visible in the oil and gas sector. We propose to create an integrated public sector 'oil major' which will be able to match the performance of international and domestic private sector oil and gas companies.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas]</p>	<p>approval for Strategic sale of Gol's existing 51.11% of total paid up equity shareholding in HPCL to ONGC. Evaluation Committee for laying down procedure for strategic disinvestment of HPCL has been constituted. Four meetings of EC have been held so far.</p>
69.	106	<p>Our ETF, comprising shares of ten CPSEs, has received overwhelming response in the recent Further Fund Offering (FFO). We will continue to use ETF as a vehicle for further disinvestment of shares. Accordingly, a new ETF with diversified CPSE stocks and other Government holdings will be launched in 2017-18.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Investment and Public Asset Management]</p>	<p>As announced in the budget 2017-18, the New Fund Offer (NFO) of BHARAT 22 was opened for subscription from November, 2017. It was oversubscribed in all segments of investors such as, anchor investors, retirement funds, retail investors and others, i.e. Qualified Institutional Buyers/ High Net-worth Individuals (QIB/HNI).</p>
70.	107	<p>The focus on resolution of stressed legacy accounts of Banks continues. The legal framework has been strengthened to facilitate resolution, through the enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the amendments to the SARFAESI and Debt Recovery Tribunal Acts. In line with the 'Indradhanush' roadmap, I have provided ₹10,000 crore for recapitalisation of Banks in 2017-18. Additional allocation will be provided, as may be required.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Financial Services]</p>	<p>Under Indradhanush Plan, a BE provision of ₹ 10,000 crore has been provided for recapitalisation in PSBs in 2017-18. Total capital infusion in the Public Sector Banks during FY 2017-18 as on 16.01.2018 is ₹9438 crore. Details of capital infusion are given below.</p> <p>(i) IDBI Bank - ₹4590 crore (ii) Bank of India - ₹2257 crore (iii) UCO Bank - ₹1375 crore (iv) Bank of Maharashtra - ₹650 crore (v) Central Bank of India - ₹323 crore (vi) Dena Bank - ₹243 crore</p>
71.	108	<p>Listing and trading of Security Receipts issued by a securitization company or a reconstruction company under the SARFAESI Act will be permitted in SEBI registered stock exchanges. This will enhance capital flows into the securitization industry and will particularly be helpful to deal with bank NPAs.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Economic Affairs]</p>	<p>SEBI Board on 28.12.2017 approved the framework for listing of Security Receipts (SRs) issued by Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), under SEBI (Public Offer and Listing of Securities Debt Instruments) Regulations, 2008 (SDI Regulations). A separate chapter dealing the framework for listing of SRs will be added to SDI Regulations.</p>

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72.	109	The <i>Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana</i> has contributed significantly to funding the unfunded and the underfunded. Last year, the target of ₹ 1.22 lakh crore was exceeded. For 2017-18, I propose to double the lending target of 2015-16 and set it at ₹ 2.44 lakh crore. Priority will be given to Dalits, Tribals, Backward Classes, Minorities and Women. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Financial Services]	Banks/MFIs have been communicated target of ₹ 2.44 lakh crore for 2017-18 by DFS on 16.06.2017.
73.	113	VII. DIGITAL ECONOMY Already there is evidence of increased digital transactions. The BHIM app has been launched. It will unleash the power of mobile phones for digital payments and financial inclusion. 125 lakh people have adopted the BHIM app so far. The Government will launch two new schemes to promote the usage of BHIM; these are, Referral Bonus Scheme for individuals and a Cashback Scheme for merchants. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology]	For promotion of the BHIM app, the Government has approved two promotional schemes namely ' Referral Bonus scheme for individuals ' and ' Cashback scheme for merchants ' with total financial outlay of ₹ 495 crore initially for a period of 6 months. The schemes have been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 14 th April, 2017. Further to onboard more individuals and merchants, these schemes have been revised on 14 th August, 2017 and extended till 31 st March, 2018.
74.	114	Aadhaar Pay, a merchant version of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System, will be launched shortly. This will be specifically beneficial for those who do not have debit cards, mobile wallets and mobile phones. A Mission will be set up with a target of 2,500 crore digital transactions for 2017-18 through UPI, USSD, Aadhaar Pay, IMPS and debit cards. Banks have targeted to introduce additional 10 lakh new PoS terminals by March 2017. They will be encouraged to introduce 20 lakh Aadhaar based PoS by September 2017. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology]	Aadhaar Pay under new name ' BHIM Aadhaar ' has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 14 th April, 2017. For promotion of BHIM Aadhaar, a promotional scheme with total outlay of Rs 395 crore initially for a period of six months has been launched. Further, to onboard more merchants, the scheme has been extended up to 31 st March, 2018. Mission under the name 'DIGIDHAN MISSION' has been established. As per the available data around 14.462 Lakh additional PoS terminals have been deployed up to 31 st March, 2017 against the target of 10 Lakh (source: RBI). As per the latest data available around 1,58,794 Aadhaar based PoS terminals have been introduced (Source: DFS).
75.	115.	Increased digital transactions will enable small and micro enterprises to access formal credit. Government will encourage SIDBI to refinance credit institutions which provide unsecured loans, at reasonable interest rates, to borrowers based on their transaction history.	SIDBI has been extending resource support to Banks/NBFCs/MFIs at a competitive interest rate for lending to MSMEs which include small and micro enterprises. The loans from Banks/NBFCs (Non Banking Financial Companies) are generally in the form of secured credit and loans extended by MFIs are generally in the form of unsecured credit.

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		[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises]	
76.	116.	<p>The digital payment infrastructure and grievance handling mechanisms shall be strengthened. The focus would be on rural and semi urban areas through Post Offices, Fair Price Shops and Banking Correspondents. Steps would be taken to promote and possibly mandate petrol pumps, fertilizer depots, municipalities, Block offices, road transport offices, universities, colleges, hospitals and other institutions to have facilities for digital payments, including BHIM App. A proposal to mandate all Government receipts through digital means, beyond a prescribed limit, is under consideration.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology]</p>	<p>Analysis of different Grievance channels of Digital Payments have been carried out. Based on the analysis, it has been proposed to work with Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MoCA) for utilising its INGRAM Grievance Redressal Mechanism for digital payments also.</p> <p>Meetings were held to discuss the way forward for utilizing National Consumer Helpline (NCH) platform for handling grievances relating to digital payment and transactions and for utilising the DoCA platform for Digital payment related grievances.</p> <p>Based on the deliberations in the meeting, DFS has been requested to issue necessary instructions to on board all Banks, Payment Banks and Pre-Paid Instrument Service Providers in the NCH platform for becoming as convergence partners. NPCI has also been asked to integrate themselves as a convergence partner in NCH platform.</p> <p>Six CoS meetings have been taken by Cabinet Secretary. Review meetings were held with more than 20 Ministries/Departments for allocation of targets for digital transactions and review of Action plans.</p> <p>30 one-on-one review meetings have been held with various Ministries/ Departments to facilitate implementation of Action Plans.</p> <p>MeitY conducted Workshop and also issued communication to all the Ministries/ Departments/States, Discoms, 50+ Municipalities regarding enablement of digital payment acceptance infrastructure including Bharat QR code at touch points.</p> <p>Support is being provided to departments in addressing respective Infrastructure, Policy, technology related concerns: CGA has issued guidelines for use of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) for collection of Govt. revenue vide notification dated 10th August 2017. CGA has also been requested to issue guidelines to enable and mandate deployment of Bharat QR Code as digital payment acceptance mechanism at all Government payment receipt counters.</p>
77.	117	<p>Government will strengthen the Financial Inclusion Fund to augment resources for taking up these initiatives.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology]</p>	<p>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology : Budget required for augmentation of Financial Inclusion Fund has already been sought for the three BHIM schemes i.e. BHIM Referral Bonus scheme for individuals', 'BHIM Cashback scheme for merchants' and BHIM Aadhaar Merchant Incentive scheme.</p> <p>The Department of Financial Services has proposed a budget outlay of ₹ 439.202 crore for Contribution to Financial Inclusion Fund of NABARD through second batch of supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Grant No. 31 – DFS for the year 2017-18. This provision will strengthen the Financial Inclusion Fund.</p>
78.	118	<p>Government will consider and work with various stakeholders for early</p>	<p>The CMs committee has made 96 recommendations cutting across 20 Ministries and Departments. MeitY had written to</p>

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		<p>implementation of the interim recommendations of the Committee of Chief Ministers on digital transactions.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology]</p>	<p>Ministries and Departments concerned to furnish the action taken on the recommendations. Secretary, MeitY had taken a follow-up meeting to review the progress made on the recommendations of the CMs Committee. MeitY is coordinating with Ministries and Departments for seeking the latest status input on the action points. MeitY is supporting various Ministries/Departments in implementation of the recommendations of CM Committee.</p>
79.	119	<p>The Committee on Digital Payments constituted by Department of Economic Affairs has recommended structural reforms in the payment eco system, including amendments to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Government will undertake a comprehensive review of this Act and bring about appropriate amendments. To begin with, it is proposed to create a Payments Regulatory Board in the Reserve Bank of India by replacing the existing Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems. Necessary amendments are proposed to this effect in the Finance Bill 2017.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Economic Affairs]</p>	<p>Department of Economic Affairs, On March 2017, constituted a Group of Officers to review the PSS Act, 2007 and to suggest the appropriate amendments. Accordingly, the Group of Officers submitted its recommendations and Draft Bill. Subsequently, on 3rd October, 2017 a High Level Inter Ministerial Committee was constituted and draft Bill was circulated among the members of the Committee. A Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for finalization of Draft Bill for amendment of Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007 was held on 11th January, 2018.</p>
80.	120	<p>As we move faster on the path of digital transactions and cheque payments, we need to ensure that the payees of dishonoured cheques are able to realise the payments. Government is therefore considering the option of amending the Negotiable Instruments Act suitably.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Financial Services]</p>	<p>The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill 2017 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 02.01.2018.</p>
81.	124	<p>VIII. PUBLIC SERVICE</p> <p>Our citizens in far flung regions of the country find it difficult to obtain passports and redress passport related grievances. We have decided to utilise the Head Post Offices as front offices for rendering passport services.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Posts, Ministry of External Affairs]</p>	<p>Post Office Passport Sewa Kendras have been inaugurated at 59 locations till 15.01.2018.</p>
82.	125	<p>Our defence forces keep the country safe from both external and internal threats. A Centralised Defence Travel System has now been developed through which travel tickets can be booked online by our</p>	<p>Defence Travel System has been rolled out wherein defence units can book tickets online. The project has been implemented by Railways. Both rail and air travel modules have been developed. As on 28th December 2017, 5759 defence units have been covered under the system out of the existing 10675 units. A total of 12,19,969 beneficiaries have</p>

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		<p>soldiers and officers. They do not have to face the hassle of standing in queues with railway warrants.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Defence]</p>	<p>been enrolled on the system till date. On an average, 5.1 lakh rail tickets are being booked through the system with an average expenditure of ₹70 crore per month. The system is continuously under up-gradation based on new IT developments, new requirements and feedback.</p>
83.	126	<p>A comprehensive web based interactive Pension Disbursement System for Defence Pensioners will be established. This system will receive pension proposals and make payments centrally. This will reduce the grievances of defence pensioners.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Defence]</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence approved the project on 9th June 2017. The RFP for the CPP Project was floated on 16th June 2017. Due to inadequate response of the bidders to the RFP for CPP Project, revised RFP-II was published on 22nd September 2017. Two bids have been received and technical bids of both the bidders have been opened on 11th December 2017. Detailed presentations on the proposal have been received from the bidders on the 21st December 2017. The technical evaluation is under progress.</p>
84.	127	<p>At present our citizens, especially those belonging to the poor and unprivileged sections, go through cumbersome procedures of Government recruitment. There are multiplicity of agencies and examinations. We propose to introduce a system of single registration and two tier system of examination.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Personnel and Training]</p>	<p>Government proposes to introduce Common Eligibility Test (CET) through computer based mode to shortlist candidates for Group-B, Non-gazetted and other posts separately for graduate, 12th pass and 10th pass candidates. There will be common registration of candidates through National Career Service (NCS) portal. The portal of NCS and SSC have since been integrated. SSC is proposed to conduct CET. Modalities for conducting test are being finalized in consultation with SSC. EFC note for Budgetary support to SSC for this purpose is under consideration.</p>
85.	128	<p>Over the years, the number of tribunals have multiplied with overlapping functions. We propose to rationalise the number of tribunals and merge tribunals wherever appropriate.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: (i) Ministry of Law & Justice (ii) Department of Revenue (iii) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (iv) Department of Financial Services (v) Department of Personnel and Training]</p>	<p>Department of Financial Services: AAIFR and BIFR have been wound up with effect from 1.12.2016.</p> <p>However, with respect to Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) it has been observed that there is no scope of merger/abolition of DRATs or DRTs due to adequate number of cases in DRATs and DRTs.</p> <p>Department of Revenue: The Authority for Advance Rulings (Income Tax) and Authority for Advance Rulings (Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax) have been merged vide Finance Act, 2017. Necessary amendments have been made to Chapter XIX-B. The three Tribunals namely Appellate Tribunal for Forfeited Property under NDPSA, Appellate Tribunal for Forfeiture of Property under SAFEMA and Appellate Tribunal under Prevention of Money Laundering Act have been merged into one Tribunal i.e. the Appellate Tribunal under SAFEMA vide Finance Act, 2016.</p> <p>Ministry of Corporate Affairs:</p>

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			<p>COMPAT has ceased to exist and NCLAT became the Appellate Authority under the Competition Act, 2002 from 26.05.2016.</p> <p>Ministry of Law & Justice:</p> <p>Proposal to merge/converge 15 Tribunals, Appellate tribunals and other authorities into 7 and also to provide for uniform service conditions of Chairman and Members of 19 Tribunals, Appellate tribunals and other authorities, including 7 merged tribunals was incorporated in the Finance Bill, 2017 by moving official amendments. The Finance Bill, 2017 has been passed by the Parliament and has become an Act. Part XIV of Chapter VI (Amendments to certain Acts to provide for Merger of Tribunals and Other Authorities and Condition of Service of Chairpersons, Members etc.) of the Finance Act, 2017 has come into force on 26.05.2017 vice Notification SO 1696(E) dated 26.05.2017. The Tribunal, Appellate Tribunal and Other Authorities (Qualification, Experience and Other Conditions of Service of Members) Rules, 2017 framed U/s 184 of the Finance act, 2017 have been notified vide GSR 514 (E) dated 1st June, 2017 and have come into force on the same day.</p>
86.	129	<p>In the recent past, there have been instances of big time offenders, including economic offenders, fleeing the country to escape the reach of law. We have to ensure that the law is allowed to take its own course. Government is therefore considering introduction of legislative changes, or even a new law, to confiscate the assets of such persons located within the country, till they submit to the jurisdiction of the appropriate legal forum. Needless to say that all necessary constitutional safeguards will be followed in such cases.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]</p>	<p>Draft Cabinet Note on 'The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2017' is being prepared by DEA in consultation with Ministry of Law and Justice.</p>
87.	130	<p>Our Government will continue to remain committed to improve the standards of public service and transparent governance. Service to the people was the life-long commitment of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. As we approach, the 150th Birth Anniversary of the Mahatma, we will take all steps to celebrate it in a befitting manner. A High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Honorable Prime Minister is proposed to be set up for the same. We will also commemorate the centenary year of <i>Champaran Satyagrah</i> this year. Government of India will support Government of Gujarat to</p>	<p>150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi: National Implementation Committee (NIC) for this commemoration has been constituted.</p> <p>100th year of Champaran Satyagrah: NIC has been constituted and Rs 20 crore has been allocated. Proposal received in this regard submitted to NIC for approval.</p> <p>100th year of Sabarmati Ashram: Inaugural function was held at Sabarmati Ashram. Proposal from Govt. of Gujarat for financial support is awaited.</p> <p>200 years of a valiant uprising by Buxi Jagabandhu: NIC has been constituted. Proposals received from two NGOs for cultural activities have been approved for financial assistance. Proposal for release of commemorative stamp and coin is under consideration.</p>

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		<p>commemorate 100 years of Sabarmati Ashram in 2017, in a befitting manner. 200 years ago in 1817, a valiant uprising of soldiers led by Buxi Jagabandhu took place in Khordha of Odisha. We will commemorate the same appropriately.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Ministry of Culture]</p>	
88.	135	<p>IX. PRUDENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The FRBM Review Committee has given its report recently. The Committee has done an elaborate exercise and has recommended that a sustainable debt path must be the principal macro-economic anchor of our fiscal policy. The Committee has favoured Debt to GDP of 60% for the General Government by 2023, consisting of 40% for Central Government and 20% for State Governments. Within this framework, the Committee has derived and recommended 3% fiscal deficit for the next three years. The Committee has also provided for 'Escape Clauses', for deviations up to 0.5% of GDP, from the stipulated fiscal deficit target. Among the triggers for taking recourse to these Escape Clauses, the Committee has included "far-reaching structural reforms in the economy with unanticipated fiscal implications" as one of the factors. Although there is a strong case now to invoke this Escape Clause, I am refraining from doing so. The Report of the Committee will be carefully examined and appropriate decisions taken in due course.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Economic Affairs]</p>	The FRBM Review Committee Report is being examined.
89.	146	<p>Measures for Promoting Affordable Housing and Real Estate Sector</p> <p>In my budget proposals last year, I had announced a scheme for profit-linked income tax exemption for promoters of affordable housing scheme which has received a very good response. However, in order to make this scheme more attractive, I propose certain changes in the scheme. First of all, instead of built</p>	Implemented with the passing of the Finance Act, 2017.

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		up area of 30 and 60 sq.m, the carpet area of 30 and 60 sq.m. will be counted. Also the 30 sq.m. limit will apply only in case of municipal limits of 4 metropolitan cities while for the rest of the country including in the peripheral areas of metros, limit of 60 sq.m. will apply. In order to be eligible, the scheme was to be completed in 3 years after commencement. I propose to extend this period to 5 years. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	
90.	147	At present, the houses which are unoccupied after getting completion certificates are subjected to tax on notional rental income. For builders for whom constructed buildings are stock-in-trade, I propose to apply this rule only after one year of the end of the year in which completion certificate is received so that they get some breathing time for liquidating their inventory. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	Implemented with the passing of the Finance Act, 2017.
91.	148	We also propose to make a number of changes in the capital gain taxation provisions in respect of land and building. The holding period for considering gain from immovable property to be long term is 3 years now. This is proposed to be reduced to 2 years. Also, the base year for indexation is proposed to be shifted from 1.4.1981 to 1.4.2001 for all classes of assets including immovable property. This move will significantly reduce the capital gain tax liability while encouraging the mobility of assets. We also plan to extend the basket of financial instruments in which the capital gains can be invested without payment of tax. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	Implemented with the passing of the Finance Act, 2017.
92.	149	For Joint Development Agreement signed for development of property, the liability to pay capital gain tax will arise in the year the project is completed. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	Implemented with the passing of the Finance Act, 2017.
93.	150	The new capital for State of Andhra Pradesh is being constructed by innovative land-pooling mechanism	Implemented with the passing of the Finance Act, 2017.

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		without use of the Land Acquisition Act. I propose to exempt from capital gain tax, persons holding land on 2.6.2014, the date on which the State of Andhra Pradesh was reorganised, and whose land is being pooled for creation of capital city under the Government scheme. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	
94.	151	Measures for Stimulating Growth A concessional with-holding rate of 5% is being charged on interest earned by foreign entities in external commercial borrowings or in bonds and Government securities. This concession is available till 30.6.2017. I propose to extend it to 30.6.2020. This benefit is also extended to Rupee Denominated (Masala) Bonds. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue, Department of Economic Affairs]	Implemented with the passing of the Finance Act, 2017.
95.	152	The Government gave income tax exemptions to start-ups with certain conditions last year. For the purpose of carry forward of losses in respect of such start-ups, the condition of continuous holding of 51% of voting rights has been relaxed subject to the condition that the holding of the original promoter/promoters continues. Also the profit linked deduction available to the start-ups for 3 years out of 5 years is being changed to 3 years out of 7 years. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	Implemented with the passing of the Finance Act, 2017.
96.	153	Minimum Alternate Tax is at present levied as an advance tax. There is a strong demand for abolition of MAT. Although the plan for phasing out of exemptions will kick in from 1.4.2017, the full benefit of revenue out of phase-out will be available to Government only after 7 to 10 years when all those who are already availing exemptions at present complete their period of availment. Therefore, it is not practical to remove or reduce MAT at present. However, in order to allow companies to use MAT credit in future years, I propose to allow carry forward of MAT upto a period of 15 years instead of 10 years at present.	Implemented with the passing of the Finance Act, 2017.

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		[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	
97.	156	In order to make MSME companies more viable and also to encourage firms to migrate to company format, I propose to reduce the income tax for smaller companies with annual turnover upto ₹50 crore to 25%. As per data of Assessment Year 2015-16, there are 6.94 lakh companies filing returns of which 6.67 lakh companies fall in this category and, therefore, percentage-wise 96% of companies will get this benefit of lower taxation. This will make our MSME sector more competitive as compared to large companies. The revenue forgone estimate for this measure is expected to be ₹ 7,200 crore per annum. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	Implemented with the passing of the Finance Act, 2017.
98.	157	In order to give a boost to banking sector, I propose to increase allowable provision for Non-Performing Asset from 7.5% to 8.5%. This will reduce the tax liability of banks. I also propose to tax interest receivable on actual receipt instead of accrual basis in respect of NPA accounts of all non-scheduled cooperative banks also at par with scheduled banks. This will remove hardship of having to pay tax even when interest income is not realised. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	Implemented with the passing of the Finance Act, 2017.
99.	158	Considering the wide range of use of LNG as fuel as well as feed stock for petro-chemicals sector, I propose to reduce the basic customs duty on LNG from 5% to 2.5%. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	Implemented vide notification No. 6/2017-Cus. dated 02.02.2017.
100	160	Promoting Digital Economy There is a scheme of presumptive income tax for small and medium tax payers whose turnover is upto ₹ 2 crore. At present, 8% of their turnover is counted as presumptive income. I propose to make this 6% in respect of turnover which is received by non-cash means. This benefit will be applicable for transactions undertaken in the current year also.	Implemented with the passing of the Finance Act, 2017.

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		<p>amendment is being proposed to the Reserve Bank of India Act to enable the issuance of electoral bonds in accordance with a scheme that the Government of India would frame in this regard. Under this scheme, a donor could purchase bonds from authorised banks against cheque and digital payments only. They shall be redeemable only in the designated account of a registered political party. These bonds will be redeemable within the prescribed time limit from issuance of bond.</p> <p>d) Every political party would have to file its return within the time prescribed in accordance with the provision of the Income-tax Act.</p> <p>Needless to say that the existing exemption to the political parties from payment of income-tax would be available only subject to the fulfilment of these conditions. This reform will bring about greater transparency and accountability in political funding, while preventing future generation of black money.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: (a) Department of Revenue (b) Department of Economic Affairs]</p>	<p>Income-Tax Act, 1961. The Electoral Bond Scheme has been notified on 02.01.2018.</p> <p>(d) Related amendment carried out with the passing of Finance Act, 2017.</p>
105	166	<p>Ease of Doing Business</p> <p>As an anti-avoidance measure, the provision of domestic transfer pricing in respect of related entities was brought in the Finance Act of 2012. Since then the number of entities being covered under domestic pricing has gone up substantially necessitating a longer scrutiny, which causes hardship to domestic companies. In order to reduce the compliance burden due to domestic transfer pricing provisions, I propose to restrict the scope of domestic transfer pricing only if one of the entities involved in related party transaction enjoys specified profit-linked deduction.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]</p>	<p>Related amendment carried out with the passing of Finance Act, 2017.</p>
106	167	<p>I propose to increase the threshold limit for audit of business entities who opt for presumptive income scheme from ₹ 1 crore to ₹ 2 crore. Similarly, the threshold for maintenance of books for individuals and HUF is</p>	<p>Related amendment carried out with the passing of Finance Act, 2017.</p>

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		being increased from turnover of ₹ 10 lakh to ₹ 25 lakh or income from ₹ 1.2 lakh to ₹ 2.5 lakh. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	
107	169	In order to remove this difficulty, I propose to exempt Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) Category I & II from indirect transfer provision. I also propose to issue a clarification that indirect transfer provision shall not apply in case of redemption of shares or interests outside India as a result of or arising out of redemption or sale of investment in India which is chargeable to tax in India. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	Circular No. 28/2017 dated 07.11.2017 on redemption of shares or interest outside India issued by Department of Revenue.
108	170	As on today, a TDS of 5% is being deducted from commission payable to individual insurance agents even if the income of some of them may be below taxable limit. I propose to exempt them from the requirement of TDS subject to their filing a self-declaration that their income is below taxable limit. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	Related amendment carried out with the passing of Finance Act, 2017.
109	171	Last year, I had announced a new scheme for presumptive taxation for professionals with receipt upto ₹50 lakh p.a. In respect of such assesses, they are being given further benefit in terms of paying advance tax in one instalment instead of four. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	Related amendment carried out with the passing of Finance Act, 2017.
110	172	In order to allow the people to claim the refund expeditiously, the time period for revising a tax return is being reduced to 12 months from completion of financial year, at par with the time period for filing of return. Also the time for completion of scrutiny assessments is being compressed further from 21 months to 18 months for Assessment Year 2018-19 and further to 12 months for Assessment Year 2019-20 and thereafter. [Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]	Implemented with the passing of Finance Act, 2017.

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111	174	<p>Personal Income-Tax</p> <p>I propose to reduce the existing rate of taxation for individual assesses between income of ₹ 2.5 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh to 5% from the present rate of 10%. This would reduce the tax liability of all persons below ₹ 5 lakh income either to zero (with rebate) or 50% of their existing liability. In order not to have duplication of benefit, the existing benefit of rebate available to the same group of beneficiaries is being reduced to ₹ 2500 available only to assesses up to income of ₹ 3.5 lakh. The combined effect of both these measures will mean that there would be zero tax liability for people getting income up to ₹ 3 lakh p.a. and the tax liability will only be ₹ 2,500 for people with income between ₹ 3 and ₹ 3.5 lakh. If the limit of ₹ 1.5 lakh under Section 80C for investment is used fully the tax would be zero for people with income of ₹ 4.5 lakh. While the taxation liability of people with income up to ₹ 5 lakh is being reduced to half, all the other categories of tax payers in the subsequent slabs will also get a uniform benefit of ₹ 12,500/- per person. The total amount of tax foregone on account of this measure is ₹ 15,500 crore.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]</p>	Implemented with the passing of Finance Act, 2017.
112	175	<p>In order to make good some of this revenue loss on account of this relief, I propose to levy a surcharge of 10% of tax payable on categories of individuals whose annual taxable income is between ₹ 50 lakh and ₹ 1 crore. The existing surcharge of 15% of Tax on people earning more than ₹ 1 crore will continue. This is likely to give additional revenue of ₹ 2,700 crore.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]</p>	Implemented with the passing of Finance Act, 2017.
113	176	<p>In order to expand tax net, I also plan to have a simple one-page form to be filed as Income Tax Return for the category of individuals having taxable income up to ₹ 5 lakh other than business income. Also a person of this category who files income tax return for the first time would not be</p>	Simple one-page ITR from (SAHAJ) notified on 30.3.2017 by Department of Revenue.

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		<p>subjected to any scrutiny in the first year unless there is specific information available with the Department regarding his high value transaction. I appeal to all citizens of India to contribute to Nation Building by making a small payment of 5% tax if their income is falling in the lowest slab of ₹ 2.5 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]</p>	
114	178	<p>There has been substantial progress towards ushering in GST, by far, the biggest tax reform since independence. Since the enactment of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016, the preparatory work for this path-breaking reform has been a top priority for the Government. It is my privilege to inform this august house that the GST Council has finalized its recommendations on almost all the issues based on consensus and after spirited debate and discussions. The preparation of IT system for GST is also on schedule. The extensive reach-out efforts to trade and industry for GST will start from 1st April, 2017 to make them aware of the new taxation system.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]</p>	<p>Central GST Bill, 2017; The Integrated GST Bill, 2017; The GST (Compensation to States) Bill, 2017; and The Union Territory GST Bill, 2017 have been passed by the Parliament on 06.04.2017. GST has been implemented in the country with effect from 1st July, 2017.</p> <p>In order to raise awareness about GST among various stakeholders including commerce and industry, tax practitioners and officers of the Department have conducted various workshops / awareness campaigns in different locations of the country. These programmes focus on three themes viz. (i) Consumer Awareness, (ii) Small and Medium Sector Enterprises and (iii) GST return filing.</p> <p>About 8192 outreach programmes have been conducted all over the country as on 15.01.2018.</p>
115	180	<p>In the Annual Conclave of Tax officers called 'Rajaswa Gyan Sangam' held in June 2016, the Prime Minister had expressed his desire to bring reforms in tax administration in the form of an approach of RAPID which stands for Revenue, Accountability, Probity, Information and Digitisation. This approach precisely reflects the strategy of Tax Department which is now formulated. While revenue considerations always remain the focus of Revenue Department, we are trying to bring in maximum use of Information Technology to remove human contact with assesses as well as to plug tax avoidance. We will try to maximise our efforts for e-assessment in the coming year. We are also using a lot of data mining capability, both in-house and outsourced. We plan to enforce</p>	<p>Promotion of Information Technology and enforcement of accountability at all levels in the Income Tax Department are ongoing process.</p>

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		<p>greater accountability of officers of Tax Department for specific act of commission and omission. I would like to assure everyone that honest, tax-compliant person would be treated with dignity and courtesy.</p> <p>[Nodal Ministry/Department: Department of Revenue]</p>	