



Budget Speech
in respect of
Demand No. 25
of
Public Works, Public Works (Roads)
and
Public Works (Construction Board) Departments
Government of West Bengal

Shri Subrata Bakshi
Minister-in-Charge

Shri Subrata Saha
Minister of State

(2011-2012)

August 2011

Honourable Speaker, Sir,

As per recommendation of the Governor, I move the sum of Rs. 2418,04,40,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Four Hundred Eighteen Crore Four Lac Forty Thousand) Only under demand No. 25 for the financial year 2011-2012. In this demand the provision for the allotment under Vote-on-Account has been incorporated.

a) The major heads under the Public Works Department are:

2052 - Secretariat General Services.

2059 - Public Works.

2205 - Art and Culture.

2216 - Housing.

2250 - Other Social Services.

2551 - Hill Areas

3054 - Roads and Bridges.

3451 - Secretariat Economic Services.

4059 - Capital Outlay on Public Works.

5054 - Capital Outlay on Roads and Bridges.

b) With the blessings of the people of Bengal, the Government of '**Maa-Mati-Mansush**' has been formed after 34 years of bad governance.

On completion of the hundred and fiftieth birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, with the very words of the poet "Nai Nai Bhoy/ Hobe Hobe Joy/ Khule Jabe Ei Dwar." (No more fear, we will be victorious, the door will open up before long.) We are

united and we will fight. We will all survive and ensure the survival of all others and will definitely build a new order and a new Bengal. The bad policies of the last Government for the last 34 years has not only ruined the systematic structure of the department but has also hampered the progress of modern and developing Bengal in many ways. The people of Bengal has blessed us, they are with us and under the able leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Smt. Mamata Banerjee, we too are bound by obligation - to expedite work in Bengal and accelerate the pace of progress.

2. The honourable members are aware that the principal aim of Public Works Department having P. W., P. W. (Roads) and P. W. (Construction Board) directorates with suitable coordination of the Civil, Electrical, Mechanical and Architectural Wings, is to augment the infrastructural activities of the whole state, to generate economic growth by improvement in the transportation system and through construction of various bridges, roads and public utility buildings. Apart from these the P. W. Department has to undertake some extended responsibilities in social sector also. With the allotted sum, Public Works Department would like to construct few bridges and Road Over Bridges to improve connectivity in far flung areas, would upgrade the present condition of the roads by means of widening and strengthening, improvement of riding quality, surfacing, etc. There is an Electrical and Architectural Wing under the P. W. Department. There is a Mechanical Wing under the P. W. (Roads) Directorate. The P.W (Construction Board) primarily constructs and maintains buildings of other departments like Education, Police, Health etc. with funds

provided by those very departments. Overall, these directorates can undertake any responsibility for the progress of the state through construction of roads, bridges and buildings.

3. In the present year we have stepped into the fifth and final year of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. As per decisions of the Zilla Parishads, the plan for up gradation of road infrastructure of the state as a whole, with special emphasis on the rural regions have been taken up, keeping in mind the aims of the Five Year Plan. As a result, overall development of the state as well as more employment opportunities is being generated. More market for commodities can be created and economic activities will increase only with the development of the road network of the state. Accordingly the plan for the financial year 2011-2012 has been decided.
4. The activities of the P. W. Department are geographically spread throughout West Bengal, from the Queen of hills,-Darjeeling to the Sunderbans. At present, in various districts of West Bengal the work of 56 major and minor bridges are in progress.

We will be able to complete these works under the leadership and heartfelt efforts of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mamata Bannerjee and financial allocation of the State Government.

With partial financial assistance from the Central Government the construction of a bridge over River Jalangi at Radhanagarghat in Murshidabad - Nadia border is being executed. The construction work of another bridge has been started over River Jalangi at Fazil Nagar in Nadia District under the "Border Area Development Programme" of the Central Government.

- 4.1 On behalf of the P. W. D and with financial assistance of the State Government and Central Government under J.N.N.U.R.M, the work of a fly-over from Dunlop More to Shyambazar in Kolkata is progressing at a fast pace. The preparatory work for the construction of a 2 Km. long flyover at the Baguihati crossing of the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue (V.I.P. Road) is being carried out with a cost sharing formula as above between State Government and Central Government; it is expected that the construction work will start soon.
5. Almost 15,476 Km of road comprising of State Highways, Major District Roads and Village Roads are under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department. Subsequent improvement along with widening and strengthening of these roads is necessary on regular basis. Keeping this very matter in mind, the improvement programme of about 900 Km of road on priority basis has been taken up in the present financial year.
 - 5.1 Side by side the improvement programme of various roads in the Jungle Mahal and the hilly areas of the state are also very important. These projects will start as soon as funds are made available.
6. In the infrastructural development of the state the work of widening and strengthening of important Major District Roads and Village Roads along with construction of some bridges, in all the districts of the state is, being carried out with loan assistance, primarily from the NABARD under the scheme RIDF. The road improvement works undertaken under RIDF-XIII and RIDF-XIV programmes are almost complete. At present, the programme for improvement of roads under RIDF-XV is being

carried out. Some road works under the programme of RIDF-XVI have already started and the tendering process for the rest is going on.

7. The P. W. Department constructs flyovers / subways over various rail tracks by sharing expenditure with the Railway authorities through the Railway Safety Fund Programme. At present, the construction work of Rail-Over-Bridges at Bagnan, Barrackpore, Durgapur, Baruipur, Dankuni, and I.I.T. Kharagpur are being carried out.

Apart from this the construction work of a Rail-Over-Bridge at Jangipur in the district of Murshidabad and a Sub Way at Jadavpur will be started. Moreover, the proposal for construction of 35 Fly-Overs for a better and efficient transport system, is under consideration.

8. In this context, I would like to inform the honourable members that the whole subject of infrastructural development is totally related to availability of funds under budget. As a result of non-availability of almost 300 Crore of rupees under Plan and Non-Plan Heads in the last financial year, the continuity of the running projects been affected. We are going through financial hardship even in the current financial year also. The running projects can be completed, if only the required funds are made available in time.
- 9 Work of two running projects, aided by a fund created with a part of the cess levied on petroleum products (CRF) and approved by the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways of the Central Government, have been completed. The work of another five projects is progressing at a fast pace, one out of which is nearing completion. The approval of five more projects

was obtained later. Out of these five projects, the work of three projects has already started and the work of the rest two projects will start soon, which includes the road to Furfura - Sharif.

- 9.1 For inclusion in the above mentioned scheme, proposal for six new projects has been sent to the Central Government for approval. The department is constantly pursuing with the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways of the Central Government for obtaining approval of the above mentioned projects.
- 9.2 The approval for construction of a link road between Burdwan District (Runakura Ghat) and the State of Jharkhand, under the "Inter-State Connectivity Programme" has been obtained from the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways of the Central Government. The tendering process for the above project is in progress.
10. A fund of Rs.147 Crores has been sanctioned for the repair of Roads and Bridges, for the current financial year, as per recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission. Necessary steps have been taken in this regard to take up projects in priority areas of different districts.
11. The P.W. (Roads) Directorate undertakes construction and maintenance work of National highways, on behalf of, and with total financial assistance of the Central Government. At present the total length of National Highways in this state is 2486.89 Km; of this the P.W. (Roads) Directorate through its NH wing undertakes maintenance of 1346.28 km and the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) , Hooghly River Bridge Commissioners (HRBC) and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) undertakes 1084.81 km, 4.20 km and 51.60 km of maintenance work respectively.

12. To pay homage to the memory of national leaders, revolutionaries, martyrs, social reformers and great personalities who have made significant contribution to society in various walks of life, the P.W. Department install their statues / busts at different places of convenience and importance.
13. Keeping an eye on e-governance, P. W. Department is going to roll out e-procurement module in association with NIC in a big way. E-procurement which encompasses e-tendering also will usher efficiency, transparency and speed in all works of the department.
14. A Website, containing all types of information related to the department going to be launched on very shortly. This site is enriched with various kinds of data from where the people at large can obtain information.
15. To infuse speed and transparency in the execution of the projects of the P.W. Department a G.I.S based software is being developed. Once it is commissioned, the routine work of engineers will be performed quickly through computer modelling.
16. A Hot Mix Plant may be set up for emergency road repair on an experimental basis. The venture of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation in this matter has been inspected jointly in order to assess the feasibility of this process.
17. Resident Commissioner of Bengal at New Delhi has been given authorisation to supervise the functioning of Banga Bhawan so that the quality of housekeeping and fooding improves.
18. A second Banga Bhawan at 2, Circular Road, New Delhi is about to be completed and can be put to use before the Sarodatsav.

19. The P.W. (Construction Board) is entrusted with construction, repair and maintenance of buildings of various government departments like - Health and Family Welfare, Correctional Homes, Technical Education and Training, Higher Education, Social Welfare, Animal Resources Development, Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation, Information and Cultural Affairs, Police etc.
20. Many Engineers of the P.W. Departments have been sent on deputation to the various departments of Central and State Governments and to agencies of government undertakings, on request of the concerned authority. They are discharging the duties entrusted to them in those departments or agencies with full responsibility and tact.

With these words, Sir, I request the house to accept the demands that I have placed.
