

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir,

With your permission, I beg to move the following demand for the financial year 2017-18:

On the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. **201,53,57,000 (Rupees two hundred one crore fifty three lac and fifty seven thousand)** only may be granted for expenditure vide **Demand No. 31**. Under Major Head: "2251-Secretariat-Social Services-00-090 & 092" and "789-Special Component Plan for SC" an amount of Rs 181,03,57,000 (Rupees One hundred eighty one crore three lac and fifty seven thousand) only; under Major Head: "4070-Venture Capital Fund" an amount of Rs. 2,00,00,000 (Two crore) only and under Major Head: "4859-Investment in Public Sector and other Undertakings" an amount of Rs. 18,50,00,000 (Rupees eighteen crore and fifty lac) only may be granted for 2017-18.

The Government of West Bengal under the visionary leadership of the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, has been instrumental in spreading the benefits of IT based economy, infrastructure and good governance among each and every section of the society upto the remotest parts of the State. The aim of the State Government is not only to create an enabling ecosystem for the growth and ease of doing business for IT and Electronics industry and attract investments from the sector but also to leverage Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a medium of enabling information and service delivery to the common people across.

The Department of Information Technology & Electronics of the Government of West Bengal, through its tenacious efforts of spreading IT activities in Tier-II and Tier-III locations has already set up and operationalized 11 new IT parks out of 18 planned. These completed IT parks are Durgapur (Phase-II), Siliguri (Phase-II), Kharagpur, Asansol, Bolpur, Haldia, Howrah, Kalyani, Rajarhat, Barjora and Purulia. Remaining IT parks of Taratala, Bantala, Krishnanagar, Malda, Coochbehar, Belur and Siliguri (Phase-III) are also in different stages of progress now. These IT Parks will have a bouquet of facilities including Plug & Play facilities for IT startups and software companies in addition to uninterrupted power supply, robust bandwidth and common facilities to suit the needs of IT companies. When fully occupied, these IT Parks are bound to create direct as well as indirect employment opportunities contributing to better the socio-economic condition of the respective locations.

To provide an ecosystem for local Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) industry in the State, the Government has set up the Sonarpur Hardware Park on 11 acres of land, where plots are ready for allotment to the hardware industry. Another Hardware Park at Kalyani has been planned for which IT & Electronics Department is having land in possession and preparation of DPR is under progress.

In line with the Government of India Hardware Policy and Schemes, work on setting up two Greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) at Naihati and Falta is also progressing well. For Naihati Electronic Manufacturing Cluster on 70 acre of land and Falta EMC on 58 acres of land, final approvals from the Govt. of India have already been received, engineering consultant has been selected and development work is under progress. Most of the infrastructure development including facility buildings work is expected to be completed in 2017-18.

As local entrepreneurship plays an important role in the development and growth of IT economy, the State Government has identified the Start-up initiative as a growth engine for IT industry in West Bengal. The Government is supporting a unique initiative of NASSCOM named NASSCOM 10000 Start up Warehouse, which is aimed at creating massive awareness about tech-entrepreneurship as a preferred career option, building entrepreneurial capability, creating a vibrant online community to link investors, mentors and IT entrepreneurs and incubating & funding quality start-ups. The warehouse provides IT entrepreneurs with affordable and accessible co-working space shared with fellow entrepreneurs, Plug and Play services, access to Mentor support, Workshops and startup events. Apart from this, the State Government is also planning a large-scale IT Startup program along with a dedicated Portal for providing active support and platform for incubation and funding of IT Start-up companies in partnership with the best accelerators and angel investor groups.

As per the last survey report of the Department of Information Technology and Electronics, the State had about **892 IT companies** employing about **1,47,000** IT professionals directly. It may be noted that about **300** companies are working in the Districts in Tier II and Tier III cities. This is an indication that efforts of the State Government to take IT economy across the State has started paying dividends. Apart from that, IT sector is growing at an impressive rate of 16% with employment growth rate pegged at 8% annually, as per NASSCOM estimate.

The IT Software & Services export figure from the State in 2015-16 touched Rs 15,000 Crore with IT majors like TCS, Cognizant, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, IBM, Accenture, Capgemini, HCL, British Telecom and Ericsson leading the charge. Most of the major export oriented IT companies are also expanding their operations in the State, which will further boost State's IT export turnover and employment figures in the sector.

As per NASSCOM estimates, the employment in the IT industry is to grow at 8% every year in West Bengal. At this rate, IT-ITeS industry in the State will have a requirement of about 69,000 skilled professionals. To address the gap between demand and supply of industry-ready skilled manpower in IT/ITeS sector in West Bengal, State Government plans to implement a IT-ITeS focused skill development program including a skill and knowledge development portal covering

entire lifecycle of skilling, starting from student mobilization through placement and post-placement handholding.

The Department of Information Technology and Electronics of Government of West Bengal has planned to nurture some niche domains of IT sector like Cyber Security and Data Science in the State with a focus on infrastructure and talent development for the same. To generate interest and awareness among students in these areas from an early stage, the Government plans to introduce foundation courses on Cyber Security and Data Science in the academic institutions.

State Government is planning to set up a Cyber Security Centre of Excellence with a goal of addressing pressing cyber security problems faced by governments and businesses with practical, standards-based solutions using commercially viable technologies and collaboration of cyber security experts from industry and academia. The initiative will focus on setting up Cyber Security infrastructure and developing a talent pool of Cyber Security professionals out of IT students and professionals of the State.

To harness the talent of the State by blending the fields of mathematics, statistics, computer science, technology and business acumen into the newly evolving and much in-demand field of Data Science, the Government is planning to set up a National Level Data Science Institute in the State to impart sharply focused, industry-oriented Data Science courses and programs.

State Government is also planning to start a State-level hackathon platform proposed as "Bengalathon" for crowd-sourcing as well as rewarding and recognizing innovative solutions and ideas from the talent in the State for solving problems from different social and governance domains in a collaborative framework.

In our commitment to introduce Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based governance and service delivery for the betterment of daily lives of the common citizens across the State, the Government is continuously working on the implementation and operationalization of Electronic Service Delivery Platforms along with expanding, upgrading and strengthening of Core ICT Infrastructure. State Portal "e-Bangla" has already been launched by Hon'ble CM on 5th August, 2016, as an official information gateway of all the Departments of the State Government.

An Online Single Window Clearance System (OSWiCS) has been operational since February, 2016, which provides 11 online services for Statutory Clearances and 5 online services related to Registration for Incentives for large industries. Under the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) initiative, a Single Sign-On (SSO) based access for 40 investor related services of different departments through single window system has also been achieved. Further, the State

Government is also planning to integrate 75+ investor related services of different Departments in the State under a new revamped Online Single Window portal besides digitizing an additional 70+ services as standalone online services. This is expected to considerably improve the Ease of Doing Business in the State. The online single window portal will allow investors and businesses to apply online, make a single payment for multiple services through credit card, debit card and net-banking, track his application online and download the clearances/approvals/NOC online.

West Bengal e-District portal is live in all districts with more than 40 online services operational with complete government workflow automation and end-to-end service delivery including facilities of e-Payment and SMS based status tracking. As it stands now, more than 4.49 lakh online service transactions have already taken place through e-District portal via different modes of Internet self-service, Common Service Centers and Citizen Kiosks across the State. This indicates a growing trend of outreach of the government services in electronic mode in all parts of the State. This figure is bound to increase manifold with more than 140 additional services already identified and being developed to be launched under e-District in 2017-18, which will benefit all sections of society and citizens through convenient, transparent, affordable and time-bound service delivery.

To leverage the potential of mobile technology in citizen-centric governance, the Government has an integrated Mobile Service Delivery Gateway (MSDG) with various e-Governance applications for SMS based status tracking and service notifications to the citizens. There are plans to expand the existing platform for Push SMS to also include Outbound Dialler (OBD) and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) based services to reach out and engage with citizens across the State in SMS as well as Voice modes. The Government is also planning to implement a Single Mobile Platform in 2017-18, which will pave the way for delivering various government services through a single mobile application in future.

I am happy to inform that current server and rack space utilization in West Bengal State Data Center (WBSDC) has crossed the levels of 99%. In the wake of increasing demand for hosting space for more online applications and services and recent technological advances in the areas of cyber security, cloud computing and energy efficiency, the State Government is implementing a complete revamp and expansion of WBSDC. Process for selection of System Integrator through open RFP for same is in advanced stages. The Government has also implemented a Security Information & Event Management appliance (SIEM) in WBSDC to safeguard State Government's digital data and information assets against growing threats of cyber attacks.

West Bengal State Wide Area Network (WBSWAN) now horizontally connects more than 1300 government offices providing a robust network backbone upto Block level. Links upto Sub-division level have been upgraded to Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) from erstwhile Copper cables for better network performance and bandwidth augmentation. The agreement with BSNL to

implement the multi-protocol labelled switching (MPLS) architecture has been concluded, which on completion will enhance the reliability and availability of the WBSWAN to its users.

To fulfill our commitment for universal connectivity for every citizen, the State Government has approved implementation of the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) from District to Gram Panchayat (GP) level, through a State Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in joint partnership with Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL). The State Government also granted free Right of Way (RoW) to BBNL, so as to facilitate ongoing NOFN Phase-I implementation in the State to cover 262 Blocks and 2550 Gram Panchayats under Broadband connectivity. Preparatory work for Phase-II implementation of the project such as GIS survey of electric poles of WBSEDCL for overhead OFC laying has also been initiated. State Government also provided its considerate views on draft Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 to DoT, GoI, which were finally notified by DoT in November, 2016.

The Government of West Bengal is also planning to implement a State-specific Digital Depository platform in 2017-18, where the Government Departments as well as Private Institutions/ Organisations shall be able to keep their digitally signed documents of the citizens like School Leaving Certificate, Medical Certificate, College Degree, Academic Awards, Mark Sheets, Licenses and other such documents. The objective of the project is to create a platform for issuance and verification of documents & certificates in a paperless way, thus eliminating the use of physical documents.

Finally, I would like to inform this august house that the State Government is committed to the cause of spreading benefits of ICT for the purposes of employment generation, socio-economic upliftment, good governance and easy and affordable access to the government services and administration across the State and is taking all possible initiatives in this direction.

With these words, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move for sanction for the demand I have proposed for expenditure during 2017-18 on account of development in the Information Technology and Electronics sector of the State.