



86. We hope that, in the next year, with proper research, legal framework and incentives, fish production might exceed 34 lakh MT mark. Milk production will be 30 lakh MT, while meat production will be 20 lakh MT and egg production will be 791 crore. Yet I regret the fact that despite various incentives, domestic milk production can only meet 20 percent of the total demand.

87. I propose to allocate Tk. 949.73 crore, development and non-development budgets combined, for the fisheries and livestock sector in the budget for FY2012-13.

Food Security

Mr. Speaker

88. We have always laid emphasis on food security. It is known that food production is being threatened by unexpected risks arising from climate change across the world. This has made the food market unstable. In this context, to ensure inter-generational food security, we have already formulated 'Country Investment Plan for Food Security' and the 'National Food Policy Plan of Action' which are under implementation.

89. It is indeed a formidable challenge for the Government to ensure fair price for the agricultural produces while keeping the prices of food grains within the purchasing power of the poor. In the meantime, we have distributed 12 lakh fair price cards among the poor farmers. Besides, we have enhanced the allocation and widened the coverage of VGD, VGF, GR and food for works programme. The number of beneficiaries of these programmes is about 3 crore.

90. You will be glad to know that we have now a stock of 14,76,115 MT of food grains in the government silos, which has surpassed the previous record. This stock will ensure supply of foods during emergency. In the current fiscal year, the prices of food grains have gone down in the domestic market compared to those of the previous years. For this reason, the sales volume of rice under OMS programme has been reduced to ensure fair price of food grains. We have also increased domestic procurement of food grains. I am pleased to let you know that our government has procured a record 3.50 lakh MT of rice during the *Aman* season. The Government has decided to procure another 10 lakh MT of food grains during the *Boro* season. Given that the number of population is growing, I mentioned in my previous budget speech that we want to raise the storage capacity of Government silos to 22 lakh MT by 2015 to maintain emergency stock. In the last 3 years, we have increased the storage capacity of government silos from 14.50 lakh MT to 16.50 lakh MT and it will be further raised by 2.40 lakh MT by 2013, Inshallah.

Water Resources

Mr. Speaker

91. Water is one of our main resources. We, therefore, attached importance to water planning, development and management from the beginning. The 'Bangladesh Water Usage Act 2012' has been approved in principle by the cabinet. However, we have not yet been able to amend the 'Water Resource Planning Act, 1992' as per our commitment.

92. During the last three years, we have carried out 43.10 km of dredging, repairing and maintenance of 140.30 km river bank, repairing of 251.20 km flood control structure and reclaimed about 300 hectare of land from the sea. At the same time, 1.60 lakh acre of land has been freed from flood while another 0.87 lakh acre has been brought under irrigation facilities. 49 km of new irrigation canal has been excavated and 33.8 km has been re-excavated. 20 big towns, 70 Upazila headquarters and 500 important historical places have been protected from river erosion. Additional 97.50 metric ton of crops have been produced in 60 hectares of land by controlling flood and ensuring water drainage.

93. In order to increase the navigability of rivers and prevent river erosion, we have given stress on capital dredging together with maintenance dredging. Dredging of the *Buriganga*, *Turag*, *Balu*, *Pungli* and *Dhaleshwari* rivers are going on under the *Buriganga* reclamation programme. The second phase of dredging in the *Gorai* river has been completed to reduce the problems of salinity and siltation in the southern region. We are looking forward to completing the feasibility study on the Ganges Barrage project in this fiscal year. Side by side, the design work of the barrage is progressing fast. In the Ganges-Brahmaputra Basin, Bangladesh performs the responsibility of flashing out almost all waters, even though only 6-7% land of this Basin falls into the territory of Bangladesh. In discharging this responsibility, we have to bear the brunt of heavy siltation and onslaught of frequent floods. In order to discharge this responsibility in an appropriate manner, we should continue to carry out regular dredging in some selected rivers. Therefore, we shall identify those rivers in future and seek participation from our neighbouring countries in carrying out maintenance dredging in these rivers.

94. The task of creating a database and an integrated master plan for the overall development of *Haor* and wetlands is in progress. I trust this task will be completed within the next fiscal year. We have also taken initiatives for prevention of flash flood and water drainage in the *Haor* areas.

95. 15,903 acres of land have been allotted to 11,298 landless families by recovering the rising *char* lands from illegal encroachment in the

Rehabilitation of Landless People in Coastal Areas

coastal areas. In the next five years, steps will be taken to rehabilitate another 9,586 families in 5,550 hectares of land. Alongside, we plan to reclaim 20,000 hectares of land by building cross dams in the coastal regions. By this arrangement, 16,000 poor families will be rehabilitated.

96. We are now able to make 3-days advance flood forecast at 38 points. Making 7-days advance forecast would soon be possible through upgradation of the system. We are continuing with our efforts to quickly reach the flood forecasts to the people.

Development of Flood Forecasting and Warning System

Besides, for the purpose of climate change adaptation and disaster risk mitigation, measures of salinity forecasting and basin development will be undertaken in the coastal areas.

97. I propose to allocate Tk. 2,890.74 crore, development and non-development budgets combined, for the water resources sector for FY2012-13.

Rural Development

Mr. Speaker

98. In order to develop the rural economy, we undertook various projects of infrastructure development during the past three years. In our current tenure, 12,409 km of rural road and 1,37,880 meter of bridges and culverts have been constructed up to January 2012. Another 81,887 km of rural road and 84,052 meter of bridges/culverts, 979 growth centres and market places have been developed.

Construction and Development of Rural Infrastructure

As many as 722 Union Parishad complexes have also been built. Bearing in mind 2021, an infrastructure development and maintenance plan has been formulated to ensure balanced development of rural areas.

99. For the purpose of supplying safe drinking water throughout the country, addressing water logging problems and constructing sewerage system in the urban areas, 29 development projects are being implemented by the Public Health Engineering Department and WASA. The present Government has built 1,30,823 arsenic free water sources across the country. Now for every 95 people in rural areas there is at least one source of safe drinking water. We hope to build another 42,000 safe water sources in the next fiscal year. In my first budget speech, I pledged to ensure safe drinking water for all by 2011. We are slightly lagging behind in this regard. Till now, we have been able to bring 88 percent people under the coverage of safe drinking water.

Supply of Safe Drinking Water

100. We have set the target to ensure 100 percent sanitation by 2013. Our progress in this sector is satisfactory. So far, we have built and supplied 8,22,384 low-cost sanitary latrines. Presently, about 91 percent families in Bangladesh have come under sanitation coverage which is the highest among the SAARC countries.

Sanitation

101. We have formulated the 'Bangabandhu Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development Academy Act, 2012' for the purposes of conducting research on poverty alleviation and imparting vocational and technical training to the rural people. We have established 128 cooperative markets throughout the country so that rural people can buy daily essentials at a fair price. This system has ensured preserving the quality of essential commodities and sale of farm produces at a fair price. We have plans to expand the programme throughout the country.

Protecting Interest of Marginalised People

102. Rural Electrification is our priority programme as it is one of the means to realise our Vision. We have brought additional 2,107 villages under the coverage of rural electrification during the last three years. Additional 13,084 km power distribution lines have been set up. Now, the total number of villages under rural electrification is 48,711(65 percent). The total number of beneficiaries is about 4.5 crore. Total distribution line now stands at 2, 27,667 km. In rural areas where electricity cannot be supplied from the grid, about 11.20 lakh solar home systems have been established with the assistance of Rural Electrification Board and IDCOL. The work is in progress for installing 190 solar irrigation pumps and 200 bio-gas power plants. Recently, as per our commitment, steps have been taken to produce electricity from the husk of paddy with the financial assistance from IDCOL. I hope, we will be able to supply electricity to every village by 2021. Meanwhile, we have installed 15,000 bio-gas plants to solve the energy problem of the rural people.

Rural Electrification

103. I propose to allocate Tk.13,549 crore for the Local Government Division, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, development and non-development budgets combined, for the FY2012-13.

(III) Human Resource Development

Mr. Speaker

104. Educated and skilled human resource is the main driver of development of an economy. We have, therefore laid emphasis on human resource development. I propose a total allocation of Tk. 39,390 crore for human resource development in the budget for FY 2012-13.

Overall Education Sector

Mr. Speaker

105. Our Government is attaching highest priority to education as the most important strategic tool for eradication of poverty and development. We have formulated an Education Policy, 2010 assimilating the essence

Implementation of Education Policy

of the charter for change, 'Vision 2021' and our commitment for building Digital Bangladesh. We have planned to implement this Policy in phases.

106. In a bid to eliminate disparity in the education sector, the Government has started distributing books free of cost to the students of primary level including secondary, *dakhil*, vocational and *ebtedai* levels from FY2011-12 throughout the country. As planned, a total of 23 crore books have already been distributed in 2012. Distribution of stipends is

Elimination of Disparity and Quality Enhancement in Education Sector

another ongoing initiative to promote female education. Currently the male-female student ratio is 47:53, which is the 2nd highest in South Asia. Besides, as many as 43.38 lakh students from the secondary to graduation level have been awarded stipends. We have also given emphasis on teachers' training, in particular on subjects like Mathematics and English, to enhance the quality of education. We are also laying emphasis on expansion of vocational and technical training and to develop appropriate skilled manpower for export to the overseas markets. At the same time, in an attempt to search creative talents throughout the country, a 'Creative Talent Hunt Policy, 2012' has been formulated. I hope this initiative will see successful implementation from the next fiscal year.

107. Various kinds of facilities are being enhanced along with infrastructure development to improve the teaching environment of the educational institutions. Construction work of academic buildings of 1,500 colleges have been initiated. In order to remove urban-rural disparity in education, we have established as many as 306 model high schools in those upazilas, where there is no government high school. Construction and other physical infrastructure works are underway to build another 164 model high schools.

Decentralisation of Education

108. In order to reorient our higher education more towards science and technology, we have established a Science and Technology University at Pabna. There is also a programme to establish a Digital University at Gazipur and Bangabandhu Science and Technology University at Gopalganj. Besides, we have established University of Professionals in Dhaka, and Begum Rokeya University at Rangpur. Moreover, we have taken steps to establish two public universities at Rangamati and Barishal, and Rabindra University at Kushtia. We believe that, these initiatives will enable our new generation to face new and emerging challenges of this century.

Higher Education

109. Education is the fundamental right of human being. We have, therefore, taken an initiative to establish a Trust Fund to ensure education for the poor and underprivileged meritorious students. A law titled 'Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust Act, 2011' has already been enacted.

Prime Minister's Education Assistance Foundation

Primary and Mass Education

Mr. Speaker

110. Eradication of illiteracy by 2014 is one of our prime commitments. Even though it took a little longer, we have ensured cent percent enrolment at the primary level as per our commitment. We have introduced pre-primary education programme for the children of 3-5 years age group. From 2011, examination on completion of primary education has started taking place throughout the country under a uniform system. As a result, it is now possible to assess the merits of primary students using a set of uniform criteria. A policy on non-formal education has been formulated to eradicate illiteracy.

Achievements in Primary Education Sector

111. Along with its expansion, we are determined to enhance the quality of primary education. Already, we have brought down the teacher-student ratio to 1:47 from 1:50 and want to bring it down further to 1:40. In order to ensure necessary infrastructure and academic environment, we have taken up for implementation a comprehensive sector wide programme (Third Primary Education Development Program, PEDP-3) at a cost of Tk. 58,359 crore. A total of 47,680 teachers will be recruited under this programme. We had a plan to raise the number of female teachers in primary schools to 60 percent. Already, we have raised the number to 58.4 percent. In my previous budget speech, I mentioned about the establishment of 1500 new primary schools. Already, construction of a total of 780 primary schools is at the completion stage. In addition, we have brought required reforms in primary education management by establishing Primary Teacher Training Institute (PTI) in 12 district headquarters, formulating a manual on inclusive education, organising training for the teachers on the manual and restructuring school management committees.

Qualitative Improvement of Primary Education

112. The present Government is continuing the stipend programme, at a cost of about Tk. 4,000 crore, intended to prevent dropping out due to poverty. In addition, a School Feeding Programme has been taken up to increase the rate of enrolment and retain the students at school.

Prevention of Drop-out

113. We have a plan to introduce e-Learning in all the educational institutions across the country. Already, multimedia classrooms have been set up in each model primary school. ICT labs have been installed in 3,172 secondary and higher secondary schools.

Information Technology in Education Sector

Health and Family Welfare

Mr. Speaker

114. One of our election pledges is to ensure quality health services for