



Spiralling prices of consumer goods take a heavy toll on everyday spending.

factories spread all over the country including *Hajaribag* of Dhaka city to the Leather Industrial City being built around the vicinity of Dhaka metropolis. Installation of the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), construction of dumping yard and installation of central water supply plant are progressing speedily in the new industrial city. In order to encourage industrial units to install effluent treatment plants, different kinds of tax concessions have been given. Credit will be extended for this purpose under refinancing scheme of Bangladesh Bank.

158. An agency called South Asian Regional Standard Organization (SARSO) has been established to set appropriate standards of quality for manufactured goods, enhance quality control capacity and maintain balance in the quality of goods in the SAARC region. This will facilitate expansion of export in the SAARC countries and remove intra-trade technical problems.

159. We would like to encourage investment in risky but potential software and food processing industries. To this end, a total of Tk. 2,100 crore has so far been allocated to EEF (Equity and Entrepreneurship Fund). Out of which, an amount of Tk. 1,225 crore has been released. The projects established under EEF have been making significant contributions to the agriculture and industrial sector. EEF assisted projects have generated 17,000 permanent and seasonal employment.

160. Apart from importing essential commodities by the private sector, we have taken initiatives to import essential commodities by the public sector to reduce market price and to ensure competitive price of commodities. As part of this initiative, the institutional and manpower structure of the state-owned Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) has been completely reorganised.

161. The tourism industry holds out immense potential for our economy. In order to develop and promote the tourism industry, National Tourism Policy, 2010 has been formulated. Meanwhile, physical infrastructure and communication systems of the tourism centres namely *Cox's Bazar*, *Kuakata*, *Bandarban* and *Jaflong* have been developed. *Cox's Bazar Development Authority Act, 2012* has been approved in principle by the cabinet. I believe, this act will have a special role in developing the tourism industry. With a view to attracting tourists from abroad, steps have also been taken for promotional advertisements in local and international media.

162. In order to revitalize the jute sector, it has been decided to turn BJMC into a profitable organisation by converting it into a holding company. Under the work plan adopted for this purpose, the Government has assumed the liability of all past bank loans and obligations of the entity to the tune of Tk. 2,827 crore. Along with this, we are providing all kinds of assistance to BJMC including cash support to buy raw jute. We hope that BJMC will now be a profitable organisation by ensuring proper utilisation of all Government assistances.

163. A digital *e-Purji* system has been introduced to prevent wastage in public sector sugar mills, bring transparency in sugarcane purchase and prevent harassment of farmers. As a result, sugarcane farmers are now

receiving sugarcane purchase order/*purji* by mobile phones through SMS. This new system has been acclaimed both at home and abroad. Recently, this has got the South-East Asia's best technological award called Manthan Asia Award. Our sugar mills remain in operation for only 5 months. Two options are available to make these mills self-sustaining. Some of the mills can refine crude sugar. The second option is to use beet sugar instead of sugarcane as raw materials. The government is planning to provide incentives for these two options.

Small and Medium Enterprise (SME)

Mr. Speaker

164. Development of SME sector is one of our main agenda. In order to develop this sector, we fixed a target of Tk. 23,995 crore in the previous budget to be disbursed by the banks and financial institutions as SME loans. In line with this, the banks and financial institutions have strengthened the process of disbursing SME loans. Up to April, 2012, an amount of Tk. 2,330.14 crore has been refinanced under the SME refinancing scheme of Bangladesh Bank.

165. As many as 64 SME helpline centres have been set up at the district level BSCIC Industrial Assistance Centres and another 7 in different trade bodies. All SME entrepreneurs, both male and female, are receiving required information services and training from these centres. All the bank and non-bank financial institutions have been directed to set up dedicated desk for women entrepreneurs. At the same time, at least 15 percent of the refinancing scheme has been allocated for the women entrepreneurs. Moreover, a collateral-free loan programme up to Tk. 25 lakh has been introduced for them. The National SME Women Entrepreneurship Award has been introduced by the SME Foundation to patronise the innovative women entrepreneurs. Apart from this, I propose to make a lump sum allocation of Tk. 100 crore for the women entrepreneurs.

166. Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has so far established 74 industrial estates across the country to provide infrastructural facilities to private entrepreneurs in setting up small and cottage industries. Up to March, 2012, as many as 9,699 industrial plots have been allotted to different industrial units. In FY2010-11, goods worth Tk. 29,027 crore were manufactured in these industrial units, out of which, goods worth Tk. 16,659 crore were export commodities.

(VI) Climate Change and Environment

Mr. Speaker

167. In terms of climate change vulnerability, Bangladesh is the most vulnerable country in the world. Given this reality, Bangladesh has played an important role in the recently concluded 'Climate Change Summit'. Bangladesh has made substantial contribution towards establishing 'Green Climate Fund' and extending 'Second Commitment Period of Kyoto Protocol'. We have drawn out the 'Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, 2009' to tackle the challenges of climate change. Moreover, a law titled

'Climate Change Trust Act, 2010' has already been enacted. We have created a fund titled 'Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF)' with our own resources. A total of Tk. 2,100 crore has been allocated for 'Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF)' over the last three years. A total of 82 projects on various issues including afforestation have been undertaken with the support of this fund. I am proposing to allocate Tk. 400 crore to this fund for the next fiscal year. Besides, another fund titled 'Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF)' has been created with an amount of US\$ 113.5 million with financial support from different development partners.

168. We are working to formulate a local plan with a view to measuring the risk of calamities and mitigate them. In parallel, we have prepared a practical guide to build people's awareness on these issues. In addition, the 'National Disaster Management Plan, 2010-15' has already been approved and actions are underway to implement the plan.

169. We have constructed 724 barrack houses and allotted them to 7,240 landless families in the coastal areas. Besides, a total of 6,186 cyclone resistant houses are being constructed with the financial assistance from Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund. Construction of 74 flood rehabilitation centres in flood-prone and river erosion areas and 100 cyclone centres in coastal areas is in progress.

170. In recent time, the threat of earthquake across the country including the capital city has intensified. It is, therefore, essential to enhance our capacity to cope with its eventuality. In order to cope with disasters, we have procured essential equipment, emergency vehicles and water vessels. Steps have also been taken to procure more equipment and other accessories. 'Bangladesh National Building Code' is being properly applied for construction of earthquake resistant buildings. In addition to these, we have continued our efforts to prepare 'Earthquake Risk Map' and update 'Standing Order on Disaster'. An initiative has been taken to formulate a contingency plan for quick rescue from disaster.

171. We are taking steps to transmit early warning of disasters through cell phone network of Grameen Phone and Teletalk. Initially, the piloting of this programme has begun in cyclone-prone Cox's Bazar and flood-prone Sirajganj districts. In addition, a pilot programme to broadcast the daily news on weather forecast across the country through Interactive Voice Response (IVR) has been concluded recently.

172. In order to reduce the level of air and industrial pollution, 11 full-time 'Air Quality Monitoring Centres' have been established to measure the level of air pollution. We have taken steps to establish energy saving and environment-friendly brick fields. Meanwhile, a total of 500 brick fields have been transformed using new technology.

173. The development of waste disposal management in 64 city corporations and municipalities across the country is underway with the financial support from Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund. As an example of our sincerity, we are formulating regulations for hazardous, ship breaking, solid and electronic waste management. Besides, a programme has been undertaken to increase the use of green fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers. Meanwhile, Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP) has been installed in 280 industries. We have taken steps to control river pollution due to industrial waste in greater Dhaka district. A policy decision has been taken to provide soft loans to the owners of industrial units to facilitate installation of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP) in industry premises. For this purpose, Bangladesh Bank has created a fund with an allocation of Tk. 200 crore.

174. We want to create a disease free environment for our citizens. High temperature incinerators have already been established in ten specialized hospitals and three medical college and hospitals to dispose off medical wastes. In the next two years, another 25 district hospitals, four medical college and hospitals and three specialized hospitals will brought under the coverage of modern waste management system. Beside this, disposal pit has been installed in 206 upazila health complexes and plan is underway to install another 106 disposal pits.

175. We have constituted the Environment Court with a view to secure a habitable environment for our posterity. We have formulated the Environment Conservation Act. We have also taken steps to prepare policies in this regard. The Department of Forest has been implementing 19 projects and 9 programmes meant for afforestation, re-plantation, maintaining biodiversity, development of eco-tourism and human resources. As many as 28 locations of the country have been declared as reserved forest areas, which represents 1.8 percent of the total area of our country. During the last three years, block gardens over 31,267 hectare of land and strip forests covering 11,445 kilometre of land have been created. In addition, raising as many as 256.57 lakh of plants has been completed. In FY2012-13, a target has been set to create block garden over 15,000 hectare of land and strip forests covering 4,500 kilometres. It also includes raising of 22.94 lakh plants against the target of 80 lakh. For proper management of various programmes in environmentally vulnerable areas, appropriate regulations have been finalised.

176. Bangladesh is rich in biodiversity. In order to preserve the invaluable biological resources of the country, we have already formulated the 'National Action Plan, 2020.' Under this plan, we have also worked