



Government of Bombay

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE BUDGET MEMORANDUM
FOR 1948-49**



**BOMBAY
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Education

I. PRIMARY EDUCATION.

It will be recalled that Government announced that compulsory primary education would be introduced in all villages in the Province which have a population of not less than 1,000. This programme was initiated in June 1947 and is in operation in 16 districts. It was further announced by Government that, as a necessary condition of this programme, district local boards should raise the rate of the local fund cess to 3 annas and earmark 15 pies therefrom for primary education. Only 4 districts have not so far fallen in line with this general scheme. The new Primary Education Act having been passed, Government will now fix the portion of the income which district local boards shall pay annually to the district school boards towards the cost of primary education. Thus, even the remaining districts will shortly be brought under the scheme of compulsory primary education. A provision of Rs. 63.29 lakhs has been made in the budget on account of this scheme. Several new training colleges for men, along with the requisite practising schools, have been sanctioned during the current year. In addition, Government has decided to establish two training colleges meant for providing special courses for teachers. For this purpose a provision of about Rs. 1.34 lakhs has been made in the next year's budget (P. W. R. New Item No. 14). A provision of Rs. 47.63 lakhs has been made for the construction of buildings for primary schools. Along with the introduction of compulsion, Government has planned to encourage the establishment of new schools in places where there are none at present. A provision of Rs. 2.05 lakhs has been made for the payment of grant-in-aid to such schools. (P. W. R. New Items Nos. 10 and 11). The pay-scales of primary teachers have been further liberalised.

II. ADULT EDUCATION.

The current year's budget contains a provision of Rs. 3 lakhs for schemes for the liquidation of adult illiteracy. A much larger provision, viz. Rs. 9.07 lakhs, is made in the next year's budget. The programme of library development is proceeding according to plan and a number of district and taluka libraries are being established in addition to the central and regional libraries.

III. SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The recommendations of the Secondary Schools Committee in regard to revised pay-scales for secondary teachers are engaging the attention of Government. It is not possible at this stage to state the exact amount

of the additional expenditure that may have to be incurred on this account. Lump provisions amounting to Rs. 16 lakhs have been provided for the purpose in the next year's budget: Rs. 12 lakhs in the P. W. R. section and Rs. 4 lakhs in the ordinary section.

IV. INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

The Committee appointed to examine the reorganisation and expansion of industrial and technical secondary education has still to submit its report. Meanwhile, Government is proceeding to give effect to existing plans. The Satara Industrial School has been reorganised and new schools at Bijapur and Hubli are under construction (P. W. R. New Items Nos. 47 and 48). Besides, Government has resumed the management of the Technical School at Dhulia and proposes to take over the management of the Technical School at Sholapur. The reorganisation of the Industrial School at Ratnagiri has been taken in hand (P. W. R. New Item No. 50). In the field of higher technical education, mention may be made of the decision to start an Engineering College at Ahmedabad. The decision will be implemented next year. A scheme for the reorganisation of the R. C. T. Institute at Ahmedabad has been undertaken. Grants-in-aid will continue to be paid to the V. J. T. Institute, Bombay, for its degree courses in the textile and engineering sections, the latter comprising both mechanical and electrical engineering. For the Government Engineering College at Poona, a non-recurring provision of Rs. 3.84 lakhs has been included in the budget for the purchase of capital goods and machinery (P. W. R. New Item No. 18 and Ordinary New Item No. 51). It is proposed to introduce new degree courses in this College in Metallurgy and Electrical Communications (P. W. R. New Items Nos. 15 and 17). The Geological Department of the College is being expanded (P. W. R. New Item No. 16). Provision has been made for the starting of new courses at the Royal Institute of Science, Bombay, and the Karnatak College, Dharwar (Ordinary New Items Nos. 38, 43 and 50).

V. UNIVERSITIES.

The reports of the committees on regional universities for Gujarat and Karnatak are awaited. Tentative provisions amounting to Rs. 4.25 lakhs have been made in the budget, but the actual expenditure will depend on the dates on which the new universities will come into being. The additional maintenance grant of Rs. 1 lakh to the Bombay University is being continued in the next year. A provision of Rs. 8 lakhs has been made for the Maharashtra University.

VI. PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Physical Education Committee, 12 posts of additional assistant deputy educational inspectors were sanctioned during the course of the current year, and it is proposed

to create 10 more posts next year. For this purpose, an additional provision of over Rs. 33,000 has been made in the budget (P. W. R. New Item No. 8).

VII. ART EDUCATION.

The Committee appointed by Government to survey the field of Art Education has submitted its report. Pending the consideration of the report, certain immediate staff requirements of the Sir J. J. School of Art have been sanctioned and the requisite provision included in the next year's budget. (Ordinary New Item No. 42.)

VIII. BACKWARD CLASSES.

Primary and secondary education is already free for backward classes. Liberal freeships and scholarships for higher education have been sanctioned for backward class students, and a total provision of nearly Rs. 12 lakhs has been made for the purpose.

MEDICAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

In order to provide better medical facilities for rural areas, Government has so far sanctioned 8 cottage hospitals in various parts of the province. It is proposed to open 3 more cottage hospitals next year and a provision of about Rs. 10.95 lakhs has been made in the budget for this purpose. (P. W. R. New Item No. 22.)

There is at present no hospital exclusively intended for the treatment of tuberculosis patients. It is proposed to start such an institution in a vacant hospital building belonging to the Military at Deolali. Negotiations are in progress, and meanwhile a provision of about Rs. 8.44 lakhs has been made in the budget for the cost of building and for expenditure on staff and equipment. (P. W. R. New Item No. 24.)

During the current year, some hundred additional beds have been sanctioned for the J. J. Group of Hospitals at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.21 lakhs.

The scheme for sending medical students abroad for higher studies has been in progress and will continue next year. The expenditure on the grant of scholarships to these students is shared equally by the Governments of India and Bombay. In addition to 10 candidates sent abroad under this scheme, 2 candidates have been sent by the Provincial Government at its own expense. A provision of Rs. 56,000 has been made in the budget for the financial year 1948-49 in connection with this scheme of medical training abroad.

It may be recalled that, with a view to improve the standard training of nurses, two colleges for nurses have been sanctioned by the Government, one at Poona and the other at Ahmedabad. The College of Nurses at Ahmedabad has been functioning from 1st December 1947. The College at Poona will be opened as soon as accommodation is available.

In order to encourage Ayurvedic and Unani teaching institutions the Government has decided to pay special non-recurring grants to these institutions during the current year and next year. The allotment for 1947-48 was Rs. 1 lakh. An increased provision of Rs. 2 lakhs has been made in the budget. (Ordinary New Item No. 67.)

In order to reduce the working hours of the low-paid staff of Government hospitals to 8 hours a day and to grant them a day off each week, it is proposed to entertain additional staff. A provision of about Rs. 3.13 lakhs has been made on this account in the budget. (Ordinary New item No. 58.)

Certain mobile hospital units were sanctioned in 1945 and have been continued from time to time. Each unit is provided with equipment for 50 beds and possesses facilities for the hospitalisation and treatment of epidemic cases. It is proposed to place these units on a permanent basis and a recurring provision of approximately Rs. 2 lakhs has accordingly been made in the next year's budget. (P. W. R. New Item No. 30.)

A total provision of Rs. 50,000, made up of Rs. 40,000 in the P. W. R. section and Rs. 10,000 in the Ordinary section, has been included in the budget for payment of grants to local bodies on account of the expenditure on epidemics.

It is proposed to open 2 Health Schools in Gujarat and Karnataka for the training of Health Visitors. An amount of over Rs. 49,000 has been provided for this purpose in the budget. (P. W. R. New Item No. 29.)

For the purchase of DDT in connection with anti-malaria measures a sum of Rs. 2.6 lakhs has been provided in the budget. (P. W. R. New Item No. 28.)

In spite of difficulties such as scarcity of materials and labour and shortage of technical personnel, the village water supply programme has made some progress. The number of wells completed up to December 1947 was 148. More than 1,000 works are in progress. These include about 100 projects for the de-silting of tanks. A provision of Rs. 40 lakhs has been made in the budget in connection with the scheme of village water supply. (P. W. R. New Item No. 26.)

AGRICULTURE.

I. GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN.

The following measures are either already in operation or newly sanctioned.

(1) *Improved seed multiplication and distribution Schemes.*

Five schemes for multiplication and distribution of improved food-grain seeds, started in 1944-45, are being continued, as also the scheme for production of nucleus seeds of improved strains of important food-grain crops.

The following three schemes, estimated to cost Rs. 13.27 lakhs over a period of five years and to bring in 9,16,000 maunds of food-grains, have been started during the current financial year—

- (1) Sameri maize in Panch Mahals District ;
- (2) Improved variety of paddy in Ratnagiri District ; and
- (3) Paddy in upghat drilled paddy tract of North Kanara District.

A supplementary nucleus seed scheme, to be grafted on to these three schemes, has also been sanctioned.

In addition, four new schemes for seed multiplication and distribution will be undertaken in 1948-49 :—

- (1) Niphad 4 wheat in Ahmedabad, Kaira and Panch Mahals Districts ;
- (2) Paddy in Poona and Satara Districts ;
- (3) Jowar 8 in Broach District ; and
- (4) Nagli in Ratnagiri District.

(2) *Vegetable and Fruit Schemes.*

The scheme for supply of potatoes and other vegetables which was originally started to cater for the requirements of the Defence Services has been stopped and a new province-wide scheme for civil requirements estimated to cost over three lakhs of rupees has been started from 1st August 1947. Government has also sanctioned a scheme at an estimated cost of about Rs. 12,000 for the analysis of the nutritive value of vegetable seeds.

A new scheme for extension of potato cultivation for civilian consumption has also been started from 1st August 1947. This scheme is operating mainly in Poona, Satara, Ahmednagar, Belgaum and Nasik Districts and in certain areas of Gujarat. Seed potatoes, manure mixture and groundnut cake manure are supplied at cost price to the cultivators participating in the scheme. The establishment charges, expected to amount to over a lakh of rupees in the next five years, will be borne by Government. About 33,000 acres are expected to be grown with potatoes under this scheme and the minimum yield expected is 16,00,000 Bengal maunds.

A scheme for the extension and organisation of fruit cultivation in suitable tracts of the Province has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of about Rs. 6½ lakhs spread over a period of five years. Under the scheme, a number of central and subsidiary fruit nurseries are to be established at the Agricultural Schools or Government farms in the Province. To begin with, it is proposed to establish five central and five subsidiary nurseries. The central nurseries will provide stock and budwood of guaranteed quality and proved bearing capacity and will further serve as centres of research on orchard management and new horticultural practices.

(3) *Hot-weather crops*.—The subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre offered to the cultivators for producing hot-weather crops was continued during 1947-48. The District Rural Development Boards were authorised to pay subsidies to cultivators who produced hot-weather crops in well or tank irrigated lands, subject to the condition that the cultivators sell to Government at the controlled rate a fixed quantity of the grain produced. Arrangements for supply of seed and manure to the cultivators are made by the Agricultural Department. The scheme is to be continued, with suitable modifications, during the hot weather season of 1948.

(4) *Kachha Bandharas*.—The scheme for construction of temporary bandharas in the Konkan division, which has been in operation in 1947-48, will be continued during 1948-49. Subsidies for the construction of bandharas are given to cultivators at the rates of Rs. 6 per acre in Ratnagiri and Kolaba Districts and Rs. 3 per acre for pulses and Rs. 5 per acre for rice in Kanara and Thana Districts.

(5) *Manures*.—The following are the important items for which provision has been made in the next year's budget :—

	Provision. Rs.
(1) Scheme for preparation and supply of manure mixture to potato growers in Poona District	8,21,954
(2) Scheme for preparation of compost manure from carrion	10,000
(3) Scheme for composting town refuse of municipalities into manure	94,587
(4) Scheme for (a) co-operative compost making and (b) compost making in rural areas	4,63,690

In addition to the above, Government has undertaken the following schemes :—

- (1) Scheme for distribution of groundnut cake, and
- (2) Scheme for preparation of manure mixture.

With a view to conserve groundnut cake for use in this Province, Government has decided to purchase the entire production at the rate of Rs. 130 per ton ex-mill, including the cost of gunnies, and to distribute it to *bona fide* consumers for (i) manuring food crops, (ii) cattle feeding and (iii) sugarcane and garden crops. For manuring food

crops and for cattle feed, the groundnut cake will be sold at Rs. 130 per ton, Government bearing the incidental charges. For manuring sugarcane and garden crops, the rate fixed is Rs. 180 per ton plus incidental charges. The cake will be distributed to the consumers through the District Rural Development Boards.

It is proposed to prepare 40,000 tons of manure mixture consisting of groundnut cake, sulphate of ammonia and bonemeal in the proportion of 8 : 2 : 1 for the next kharif season for application to the paddy crop. The mixture will be sold to the cultivators at the concessional rate of Rs. 50 per ton.

II. AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING.

(1) *Mechanical Cultivation etc.*—Mechanical cultivation, boring of wells, construction of new wells and repairs to old wells are some of the schemes undertaken by the Agricultural Department. The following provisions have been made in the budget in this connection

	(in lakhs of rupees)
Mechanical Cultivation	18.70
Boring of wells	3.94
Loans for construction of new wells and improvement of existing wells (Post-War Reconstruction New item No. 78)	138.00

(2) *Minor Irrigation.*—A separate Minor Irrigation Section, forming part of the Agricultural Department, has been set up. This organisation will also execute the minor irrigation works included in the 5-Year Plan for which an amount of Rs. 1 crore has been earmarked. The annual expenditure on establishment is estimated at about Rs. 9½ lakhs (P. W. R. New Item No. 4).

(3) *Lift Irrigation.*—It is also proposed to start a Lift Irrigation Scheme, with a view to bringing more area under irrigation. There are a number of perennial rivers and nallas in this Province which can be utilised for this purpose by installing pumping plants at suitable sites which will be located by inspection and survey by trained men. A provision of Rs. 1.52 lakhs has been made in respect of this scheme (P. W. R. New Item No. 5).

III. AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

(1) *Agricultural Colleges.*—Government has sanctioned the establishment of two Agricultural Colleges—one at Dharwar in the Karnatak and the other at Anand in Gujarat—during the current year. The Agricultural College, Dharwar, is estimated to cost about Rs. 24 lakhs (Rs. 20½ lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 3½ lakhs recurring). The Agricultural College at Anand forms part of the Institute of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Anand.

(2) *Agricultural Schools*.—Government has decided to establish agricultural schools, with a two-year course in agriculture, horticulture, village industries, etc., at various centres in the Province. Eight such Agricultural Schools have already been established at Devihosur, Kumta, Arbhavi, Manjri, Borgaon, Puntamba, Dhulia and Dohad. In addition to these, two Agricultural Schools have been established, one at Anand and the other at Bordi, with financial assistance from Government. It is the intention of Government to start at least one Agricultural School in each district in due course. The cost on account of the eight Agricultural Schools during the current year is estimated at about Rs. 9·6 lakhs (Rs. 5·7 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 3·9 lakhs recurring). An expenditure of about Rs. 10·6 lakhs will be incurred on these Schools during 1948-49.

(3) *Agricultural Research*.—The following schemes may be mentioned :—

(i) *Scheme for research and extension work on rice*.—This scheme was sanctioned by Government in August 1947 at an estimated cost of about Rs. 8 lakhs spread over a period of five years. Research work of considerable value has already been done in the past on the genetic improvement of the rice varieties in the various tracts for which experimental stations had been established. There are, however, other large areas where the improved strains, evolved at the existing experimental stations, do not thrive well; and it is considered essential to undertake breeding work for these areas. There are also several important problems pertaining to Breeding, Agrobiology, Biochemistry and Entomology regarding which scientific research work is still incomplete or which await investigation. The research work proposed in this scheme will meet the objects in view. Simultaneously with the research work, it will be necessary to develop the extension work in order to ensure that the successful results of scientific research work are widely and rapidly introduced in the general cultivation of the tracts concerned. The scheme provides for the extension side of the work also. A provision of about 3 lakhs has been made for this scheme in the budget for 1948-49.

(ii) *Scheme for scientific research work for the improvement of cereal, pulse and oilseed crops*.—This scheme, which is estimated to cost about Rs. 8·4 lakhs spread over a period of five years, has been sanctioned by Government recently, and provides for research work on cereals other than rice and on pulses and oilseeds. For expenditure on this scheme, a provision of about Rs. 3 lakhs has been made in the budget.

(iii) *Scheme for expansion of the Statistical Section under the Statistician in the Agricultural Department*.—This scheme has been sanctioned by Government up to 31st May 1951. The expenditure on the scheme is estimated at about Rs. 1·21 lakhs

during 1947-48 and a provision of Rs. 1.20 lakhs has been made in the budget. Under this scheme, crop-cutting experimental surveys are undertaken by the Agricultural Department on all important crops with the object of (a) estimating the average yield and total annual production of the Province in respect of each crop (b) determining the district standard yield for each crop and (c) training field staff in the requisite technique.

VETERINARY SERVICES

A cattle welfare scheme for Bombay City and Bombay Suburban District has been sanctioned and a provision of about Rs. 1.26 lakhs made for the purpose in the budget (P. W. R. New Item No. 44). The continuance of the scheme for immunisation of cattle against disease has been sanctioned for another year at a cost of Rs. 76,000 (Ordinary New Item No. 76). In this connection may also be mentioned two schemes which are recorded under "40-Agriculture". One is a scheme for improvement of Amrit Mahal Cattle in various areas in the Karnatak. A provision of Rs. 66,500 has been made in the budget (P. W. R. New Item No. 43). The other is a scheme to render financial assistance, in the form of a loan upto a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh in each case, bearing 4 per cent. interest, with a view to establishing six large-scale private farms in the Bombay Province, thereby augmenting the existing milk supply in different parts of the Province. A provision of Rs. 6 lakhs has been made for these loans (P. W. R. New Item No. 42).

CO-OPERATION

I. COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Government has extended the scope of the scheme for grant of loans and subsidies for purchase of tools and appliances for the setting up of cottage industries. Under the revised scheme, an amount not exceeding Rs. 500 can be sanctioned to an individual and not exceeding Rs. 5,000 to a co-operative society. In either case, not more than half the amount is given as a subsidy and the balance as a loan. In addition, loans for working capital can be sanctioned up to Rs. 500 in the case of an individual and up to Rs. 5,000 in the case of a society. A provision of Rs. 1.25 lakhs has been made in the budget for the purpose of these loans.

The Village Industries Committee appointed by Government has submitted a number of schemes for the development of cottage industries throughout the province. In the current year, a total grant-in-aid of Rs. 4.68 lakhs has been sanctioned to the Committee for the execution of schemes such as the Karnatak Compact Area Khadi Scheme, the Khadi Self-Sufficiency Scheme, the Vedchi Vihag Khadi Scheme, the Palm Gur Industry, the Woollen Industry in the Karnatak and the Handmade Paper Industry in Poona.

An amount of about Rs. 7.40 lakhs has been provided in the next year's budget for grant-in-aid to the Village Industries Committee for the execution of existing and new schemes.

II. CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

The scheme of co-operative education and training outlined in the report of the Madan Committee was implemented during the year. Government sanctioned the scheme of a Co-operative College at Poona and three regional schools have been opened. The estimated cost of the scheme is about Rs. 1.63 lakhs. The necessary provision has been made in the next year's budget.

III. THE BOMBAY MONEYLENDERS ACT, 1946.

The administration of the Act has been entrusted to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who has been notified as the Registrar-General of Money-lenders. Collectors of districts have been appointed as Registrars of Money-lenders for their districts and Mamlatdars and Mahalkaris as Assistant Registrars for their talukas and mahals. In cities like Bombay, Ahmedabad, Poona, Nasik, Sholapur, Belgaum and Hubli, special officers have been appointed as Registrars and Assistant Registrars. A provision of Rs. 4.25 lakhs has been included on this account in the budget for 1948-49.

IV. THE BOMBAY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETS ACT, 1939.

In addition to two regulated markets which already existed, some 15 new regulated markets were established under this Act during the course of 1947-48. A sum of about Rs. 76,000 has been provided in connection with the administration of this Act during the year 1948-49.

V. THE BOMBAY AGRICULTURAL DEBTORS' RELIEF ACT, 1947.

In May 1947 the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, 1947, was put into operation throughout the province. With the enforcement of the new Act, the Debt Adjustment Boards established in 1942 and 1945 were dissolved and their work was transferred to the civil courts concerned. The staff attached to the Debt Adjustment Boards was distributed between these courts. In order that the work of debt adjustment may be completed as soon as possible, it has been decided to appoint 80 Civil Judges to cope with the pending work. Moreover, with the extension of the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act to the whole of the Province, 65 additional posts of Land Valuation Officers have been created in the Co-operative Department on the basis of one for each of the Civil Courts notified as Debt Adjustment Board in February 1947. The relevant provisions in the budget are: approximately Rs. 8.38 lakhs for Debt Adjustment Boards and approximately Rs. 5.68 lakhs for staff for propaganda work etc., in the Co-operative Department.

INDUSTRIES

The report of the Provincial Industries Committee has only recently been received and is under consideration. The reports of the various sub-committees of this Committee have already been published and provide very valuable material. The recommendation for the establishment of an Industrial Finance Corporation in this province is engaging the attention of Government. Government has decided to institute a geological survey section, and a provision of Rs. 1.23 lakhs has been made for the purpose. (P. W. R. New Item No. 49.) The provisions made from year to year for schemes of industrial research have been now placed on a permanent basis. The recurring provision made on this account is Rs. 25,000 (Ordinary New Item No. 82.) In the capital section, a provision of Rs. 25 lakhs has been made for participation in the scheme for the manufacture of Sulphate of Ammonia at Sindri in Bihar (Ordinary New Item No. 102.)

LABOUR

The provision for Labour Welfare in the Budget for 1948-49 is Rs. 4.63 lakhs, as against the current year's revised estimate of Rs. 4.42 lakhs and budget estimate of 3.29 lakhs. More and more workers are taking advantage of the amenities provided for recreation, health, hygiene, and instruction at the various welfare centres in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Hubli, etc. Practically all the important industrial areas in the province are now covered by welfare activities. Provision has been made in the budget for the opening of new centres. (P. W. R. New Items Nos. 51 and 53.) A provision of about Rs. 39,000 has been made for convalescent homes for industrial labourers. (P. W. R. New Item No. 56.)

HOUSING

An amount of Rs. 1½ crores has been provided in the budget for the housing of industrial labour in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Hubli, etc. For details, reference is invited to P. W. R. New Item No. 76.

MILK SUPPLY

The scheme for bringing milk by rail from Anand was further extended during the current year. It is expected that, in 1948-49, more than three wagon-loads of milk (about 600 maunds) will be brought to Bombay. In the Anand area, 5 co-operative societies of milk producers have been organised in 5 villages for collection of milk. Cash subsidies are granted to such societies and Rs. 7,500 have been provided for the purpose in the budget. In Bombay and its suburbs, several co-operative societies of milk producers have been organised and they together supply about 200 maunds of milk per day to Government. A union of these co-operative societies has been registered. It will help to co-ordinate their activities and one of its functions will be to purchase cattle-feeds, etc., for all members of the societies. It is proposed to conduct a detailed survey of the Palghar area for a period of about six months.

with a view to find suitable sites for dairy colonies. Government has already purchased a dairy farm belonging to the Infant and Public Milk Supply Co. Ltd., at Palghar, for Rs. 2½ lakhs and decided to convert it into a dry cattle farm. The required staff has been sanctioned. (P. W. R. New Item No. 62.) For the year 1948-49, Rs. 43 lakhs have been provided in the budget for the acquisition and allotment of land and the construction of dairy farms. (P. W. R. New Item No. 75.)

CIVIL WORKS

I. COMMUNICATIONS.

A total provision of about Rs. 163 lakhs has been made for Communications (Original Works), out of which approximately Rs. 86½ lakhs have been made available from the provincial revenues, Rs. 68 lakhs are expected to be paid by the Government of India as the cost of National Highways, and the balance of about Rs. 8½ lakhs will be met from this Government's share in the Central Road Fund. The provision covers a number of important bridges, with which a start will be made, as well as various road works connecting district towns with taluka towns. In addition, the programme provides for construction of minor roads, including village approach roads in each district.

It is further proposed to finance the construction of certain urgent bridge works from the Provincial Road Fund and an additional provision of about Rs. 8 lakhs has been made for this source in the next year's budget. In addition to these provisions for improvement of existing roads and construction of new roads, a sum of about Rs. 62½ lakhs is provided during the next year for repairs to Communications. This is exclusive of a provision of about Rs. 27 lakhs for repairs to National Highways, an item that will be financed by the Government of India.

II. BUILDINGS AND MACHINERY.

Next year's provision for the construction of various buildings is about Rs. 211 lakhs. Some important schemes are mentioned below :—

	Approximate estimated cost to Government total (in lakhs of rupees.)
(a) Buildings for the six Training Colleges for men in the Panch Mahals, Kolaba, East Khandesh, Bijapur, Karwar and Ahmednagar Divisions	20·00
(b) Hostel for girls, Charni Road, Bombay	11·75
(c) Construction of an additional building for the Civil Secretariat	10·00
(d) College of Engineering, Ahmedabad	10·00
(e) Medical College and Hospital at Ahmedabad	53·33

A provision of Rs. 25 lakhs for machinery ordered from foreign countries has been included in the next year's budget.

III. ELECTRIC GRID SCHEMES.

The policy of Government is to co-ordinate the development of the supply of electricity within the Province in the most efficient and economical manner, with particular reference to such development in areas not at present covered by any licence, and with this end in view to build up a Grid System in the Province in co-operation with the existing large undertakings, as well as with the Railways and States involved. In pursuance of this policy, Government sanctioned in 1945 the North Gujarat Electric Grid Scheme and the electrification of the towns of Ratnagiri, Malwan, Vengurla and Chiplun in the Ratnagiri District and of certain villages in the Satara Taluka and Bulsar Taluka of the Surat District. Government also approved in principle the South Gujarat Electric Grid Scheme. In addition to these schemes, which are at present under execution, Government ordered during the year 1947-48 the investigation of—

- (a) the Koyna Hydro-Electric Project in Satara District;
- (b) the Kalinadi Hydro-Electric Project in Kanara District;
- (c) utilisation of power available from the Jog Falls in the Southern part of the Province; and
- (d) electrification of some 21 towns in which there are village industries.

These investigations are at present in progress. As regards (d), Government has so far approved the schemes for electrification of Islampur and Peth in Satara District. A total provision of Rs. 1.25 crores has been made for the electric grid schemes in the next year's budget.

IV. WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES.

Government has decided that the work on the Neersagar Water Supply Scheme should be started immediately. This scheme will be a great boon to the towns of Dharwar and Hubli, both of which experience great water scarcity every year. The proposed scheme provides for a storage reservoir which involves the construction of an earthen dam across the Bedti Nala. The Neersagar Water Project is to be constructed in two stages and water sold to the two Municipalities in bulk at fixed points outside the town limits. The internal distribution will, as usual, be done by the local bodies themselves. The cost of the first stage of the scheme is expected to be about Rs. 1.41 crores. A provision of 20 lakhs has been made in the budget for 1948-49.

V. MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS.

For the current year, the following major irrigation works were included in the budget :—

Meshwa Canal.	Vir Dam.
Mahi Canal.	Gangapur Dam.
Wardala Tank.	Daddi Dam.
Patadungri Tank.	

Administrative approval has been accorded to the Meshwa, the Wardala and the Gangapur Projects, in the course of this year. The Mahi Canal Project comprises a storage, a pick-up weir and a right bank canal. It has been proposed to have a storage at Kel on the Punam river, a tributary of the Mahi river in the Lunawada State. No final reply has yet been received from the State authorities, who have been approached by Government. As an alternative, another site on the Mahi river at Kadana is being investigated. This storage encroaches on the territory of the Sant Rampur State. The State authorities have been approached but their reply is not yet received. In the meantime, a proposal to construct a pick-up weir and a canal only was considered, but had to be dropped as such a truncated scheme would be of little use without a storage. As regards the Patadungri Tank, survey work has been completed and the plans and estimates are being finalised. When constructed, the area irrigated by this project will be about 20,000 acres. All work on the Vir Dam project had to be stopped as no agreement could be arrived at regarding the lands in the Bhor State that would be submerged. Further negotiations with the State authorities are in progress. The additional area that will be irrigated when this Dam is constructed will be about 90,000 acres. As for the Daddi Dam, the designing of the larger dam is in hand. A project for the first 44 miles of the Ghataprabha Left Bank Canal has been prepared and is being scrutinised by Government. Survey work for the Right Bank Canal is in progress.

Two new major irrigation works are included in the budget. The first is the Watrak Canal project. The survey work has been completed and plans and estimates are under preparation. The area that will be irrigated when this Project is completed will be about 70,000 acres. The second work is that of constructing a tail tank between the villages Tisangi and Sonak on Branch No. III of the Nira Right Bank Canal. The project has already been approved administratively. The additional area irrigated will be about 7,200 acres.

Work on the investigation of the multi-purpose dams on the Tapti and the Narbada with a view to prevent the recurring floods at Surat and Broach is in progress. The investigation is being carried out by the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission of the Government of India, with the help of staff loaned by this Government.