

**RS.1, 74,000 CRORE FOR BHARAT NIRMAN
6% OF GDP FOR EDUCATION IN THE NEXT ANNUAL BUDGET**

Bangalore: November 16,2005

Rs. 1,74,000 crores has been earmarked for Bharat Nirman programme announced by the Prime Minister recently. The programme envisaged for a period of four years will take up improvement of facilities in six areas including agriculture and infrastructure. This information was given by Shri M V Rajasekharan, Union Minister of State for Planning after inauguration of 4th ISTR Asia Pacific Regional Conference here today. Under the programme connectivity will be given to villages, irrigation facility will be provided on two crore 30 lakh acres of land, 60 lakh houses will be built for the poor. Further 1,25,000 villages will be electrified, 66,682 villages will get telephone connection and one lakh villages will be provided internet connection under this programme, he added.

In the next annual budget education sector will get funds to the extent of 6% of GDP, Shri Rajasekharan said. The UPA government enlists highest priority to the cause of Social justice. He regretted that inspite of number of programmes for the poor 26 % of 1.3 billion population still lives in abject poverty. The Central and State Governments should effectively involve the third sector comprising of volunteers of civil society for ensuring proper delivery system of the government, he observed.

The 20th century witnessed three types of hunger, the hunger for equality, spirituality and modernity (advances in science and technology). To be successful the civil society working for social justice and equality should continue to pursue such hunger. This suggestion was given by renowned Kannada scholar Prof. U R Ananthamurthy in his keynote address. In his welcome address Prof. M S Thimmappa, Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University said Public and Private sectors have their own limitations towards working for social cause. Hence the Third sector namely NGOs have a great role to play in this area, he stated.

Prof.Jenny Onyx, Professor,University of Technology, Sydney, Australia and Prof.Masa Deguchi, President, International Society for Third Sector Research were present on this occasion. Delegates from 20 countries from Asia-Pacific region,including Japan and Australia are attending the conference. In the three-day conference national and sub regional research

associations will present 81 papers on nine different themes related to civil society and social justice, 30 of which are from countries outside India.

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AD:PC:HRS

Hrs 1500

16/11/2005